

**EXPLORING PSYCHOSOCIAL EXPERIENCES OF STREET GIRLS'
LIFE IN SOME SELECTED KEBELES IN DIRE DAWA CITY, ETHIOPIA**

MA THESIS

HAILU SISAY

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**Exploring Psychosocial Experiences of Street Girls' Life in Some Selected
Kebeles in Dire Dawa City,
Ethiopia**

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Hailu Sisay

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to the female street children in Dire Dawa City, whose strength in the face of suffering and trauma has been a profound source of inspiration. With deep gratitude, I also honor my mother, family, mentors, friends, and colleagues, whose unwavering support and encouragement have carried me through this journey.

STATEMENT OF THE AUTHOR

By signing below, I declare and affirm that this thesis is my own work. In data gathering, data analysis, and thesis completion, I adhered to all ethical standards of scholarship. All scholarly materials cited in the thesis have been acknowledged. I confirm that all sources acknowledged and referred to in this work have been cited and referred to. Every attempt has been made to prevent plagiarism in the production of this thesis.

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Name: Hailu Sisay

Signature -----

Date: April, 2025

School/Department: College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Department of Psychology

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Hailu Sisay is a seasoned professional with a multidisciplinary background in development, sociology, and management. Born on January 1, 1987, in Kebele 06, Dire Dawa City, Ethiopia, he completed his primary and secondary education in Dire Dawa before enrolling at Gewane Agricultural College in October 2004, where he earned a Diploma in Plant Science in July 2007. After graduation, Hailu began his professional career with the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Coordination Office of Harar, holding various positions including SILC/VSLA Supervisor and Gender and Energy-Saving Technology Implementation Focal Person until 2016. Committed to continuous learning, Hailu earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Haramaya University in 2015, after which he assumed the role of Youth Affairs Implementation Expert at the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Coordination Office of Harar. He later pursued a second Bachelor of Arts degree in Management, graduating in 2021, and from 2020 to 2022, he served as a Child Protection and Community Engagement Officer with SOS Children's Villages Ethiopia in Harar. Since April 2022, Hailu has been working as a Project Officer at the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD). In parallel with his professional responsibilities, he pursued a Master of Arts degree in Social Psychology at Haramaya University, graduating in 2025.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APA	American Psychological Association
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
BoSCA	Bureau of Social and Civil Authority
CDW	Child Domestic Work
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSA	Central Statistics Agency
FSCE	Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment
GO	Governmental Organization
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
IDP	Internal Displaced People
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nation High Commissiner for Human Right
OVC	Orphan Vulnerable Children
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

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EXPLORING PSYCHOSOCIAL EXPERIENCES OF STREET GIRLS' LIFE IN SOME SELECTED KEBELES IN DIRE DAWA CITY, ETHIOPIA

Abstract

This study explores the psychosocial experiences of street girls in selected Kebeles of Dire Dawa City, Ethiopia, employing a qualitative research approach with a phenomenological research design to explore their lived experiences. The study aims to identify the push factors contributing to street life, investigate the psychosocial challenges faced by street girls, analyze their coping mechanisms, and assess the availability and effectiveness of psychosocial support systems. A total of 20 respondents, including 10 street girls and 10 key informants, were selected using convenience and purposive sampling techniques, respectively. Data were collected through unstructured interviews, systematic observations, and an analysis of policy documents related to street children. Thematic analysis was employed to interpret the qualitative data. Findings reveal that street girls experience severe economic hardship, social stigma, and psychological distress due to trauma, abuse, and poverty. Coping strategies often involve reliance on peer networks and substance use. The study highlights the inadequacy of existing psychosocial support systems and underscores the urgent need for comprehensive and accessible interventions. The results further indicate that economic deprivation, family instability, and social factors significantly contribute to the vulnerability of girls to street life, resulting in profound psychosocial consequences. Strengthening psychosocial support mechanisms is critical to enhancing resilience and improving the mental well-being of street girls. The study recommends targeted interventions, including income-generating opportunities for families, structured psychosocial support programs, enhanced coordination among stakeholders, policy amendments, and further research on the root causes and psychosocial implications of street life among girls in Dire Dawa.

1. INTRODUCTION

The introduction section of this study encompasses the background, statement of the problem, research questions, objectives, significance, delimitations, and definitions of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

The term "street child" has started discussions because it tends to label a group of disadvantaged children in a way that doesn't always reflect their individual lives. Many of the problems, needs, and difficulties these children face are very similar to those faced by other vulnerable children from poor backgrounds. That's why it's important to remember that these children are not very different from others in similar situations and deserve the same rights and protection. In some places, the term "street child" is avoided because it has negative meanings, which can lead to these children being judged unfairly or pushed further to the edge of society (FSCE, 2003, p.7).

Among the most at-risk populations are street children, who are forced to live and work in public spaces without proper adult supervision or protective care, exposing them to a range of risks (Dabir, 2014; United Nations, 2008). This group is typically divided into two distinct categories: those who are entirely dependent on the streets for survival, and those who, while working on the streets during the day, are able to return to their families at night (UNICEF, 2008). Such categorization underscores the varying degrees of vulnerability faced by these children, influenced by their living conditions and access to familial support.

The root causes of child homelessness and street life are deeply linked to socio-economic vulnerabilities, structural disadvantages, and family disruptions. Many children find themselves on the streets due to parental loss, family separation, inadequate housing, and economic deprivation. Studies indicate that push factors such as domestic violence, physical abuse, and poor family relationships drive children away from home and force them to seek survival on the streets (Ward & Seager, 2010). Once on the streets, these children face severe hardships, where survival becomes their primary concern.

Globally, the issue of street children is a growing concern. UNICEF (2018) estimates that around 100 million children live on urban streets worldwide, facing extreme challenges such as poverty, violence, and disease. The street environment often exposes these children to heightened risks,

forcing them to rely on peer networks for survival (Reza & Henly, 2018). The problem is particularly severe in developing countries, where inadequate social support systems and socio-economic challenges fail to meet the needs of these marginalized children (Hassen & Mañus, 2018). Africa, in particular, has a significant number of street children, with an estimated 10 million living without families, primarily in urban areas (UNICEF, 2018).

In many African countries, street children face extreme hardships, including physical and emotional abuse, exploitation, and lack of access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and education (UNESCO, 2015). Studies highlight that female street children experience additional vulnerabilities compared to their male counterparts. Girls are more likely to be subjected to sexual violence, exploitation, and discrimination, which can lead to long-term psychological trauma, low self-esteem, and social stigmatization (UN OHCHR, 2012). Public attitudes toward street girls are often more hostile, leading to further verbal and physical abuse (Chimdessa, 2022).

In Ethiopia, the growing number of street children, particularly girls, is an urgent social concern. According to the 2007 Population and Housing Census, children constitute 52% of the total population of 73,918,505, with 33,515,310 (87.26%) living in rural areas and 4,819,539 (12.76%) residing in urban areas. Among them, 51.3% (19,696,850) are male, while 47.7% (18,709,999) are female (CSA, 2007). Ethiopia is home to an estimated 150,000–200,000 street children, with an additional 1 million at risk of becoming homeless (UNODC, 2006).

Despite Ethiopia's commitment to international child protection conventions, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, female street children continue to face severe risks of sexual exploitation and violence (Tigist & Busha, 2022). These girls often lack access to food, shelter, education, and healthcare, forcing them into child labor, begging, or other survival strategies that increase their exposure to physical and psychosocial harm (Yacob, 2018). Children living in difficult circumstances in Ethiopia require special care and protection. According to the 2007 Population and Housing Census, approximately 3,814,526 (9.9%) children in Ethiopia are orphaned due to various causes. Many children living on the streets are vulnerable to crime, substance abuse, and exploitation, with female street children facing even greater risks (CSA, 2007).

Ethiopia's socio-economic challenges, particularly in urban centers like Addis Ababa, contribute significantly to the rise in the number of street children. Despite infrastructural improvements, persistent poverty, lack of access to education and healthcare, and policies that favor rural populations exacerbate the vulnerabilities of children, particularly girls (Bigsten, 2003; Yohannes, 2005). According to UNICEF (2007), between 500,000 and 700,000 children live on the streets in Ethiopia, with approximately 150,000 residing in Addis Ababa alone, of which 25% are female.

Compared to male street children, girls face disproportionately harsh conditions, including heightened risks of sexual abuse, rape, forced prostitution, and early pregnancies, sometimes as young as 12 years old (UNICEF, 2007). These extreme vulnerabilities expose them to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, and unwanted pregnancies, perpetuating a cycle of street life and social marginalization. The absence of protective family and social structures further compounds their suffering, leaving them with limited survival options.

The issue of street children is particularly severe in Dire Dawa City, where vulnerable children especially girls face increasing risks. The city, particularly its nine urban *kebeles*, has a high number of street children, with over 25,000 children affected by HIV/AIDS-related parental deaths, family breakdown, human trafficking, rural-to-urban migration, and extreme poverty (DDBoWCA, 2013). Despite the growing number of street children in Dire Dawa, there is limited research focusing on the unique psychosocial experiences of these girls, their challenges, the factors driving them to street life, their survival mechanisms, and the available support systems. While national and regional efforts exist to address child homelessness, there remains a lack of coordinated psychosocial support mechanisms specifically tailored to the needs of female street children

The increasing number of female street children in Ethiopia, particularly in Dire Dawa, highlights the urgent need for targeted research and intervention. These children face multiple layers of vulnerabilities, including poverty, family disintegration, violence, and sexual exploitation. However, there is a significant gap in understanding the psychosocial challenges they endure, their coping strategies, and the effectiveness of existing support systems. To ensure the protection and well-being of street girls, this study aims to address these knowledge gaps by exploring their psychosocial experiences in selected *kebeles* of Dire Dawa.

The findings will contribute to policy recommendations that emphasize collaborative efforts among families, caregivers, communities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, religious institutions, and international agencies. Strengthening these partnerships is essential for providing sustainable psychosocial support and safeguarding the rights and dignity of street girls in the study area.

1.2 Statment of the Problem

Ethiopia has ratified various international and continental treaties on children's rights, which define a child as any person under the age of eighteen. Based on the 2007 National Population and Housing Census, children constitute 52% of the country's population, with 18.7 million (47.7%) being female (CSA, 2007). Despite this significant demographic, many children, particularly girls, face severe socio-economic hardships, making them vulnerable to life on the streets.

According to the same census, approximately 3.8 million children (9.9%) are orphaned due to various factors, including HIV/AIDS, parental death, family breakdown, and extreme poverty (CSA, 2007). These children are among the most at-risk populations, often experiencing malnutrition, lack of education, limited healthcare, child labor, and exploitation. Among them, female street children face additional challenges, such as sexual abuse, forced prostitution, early pregnancies, and social stigmatization (Tsegaye, 2003; UNICEF, 2007).

While research has highlighted the prevalence of street children in Ethiopia's major urban centers, such as Addis Ababa, the issue remains understudied in Dire Dawa. Female street children, in particular, experience heightened levels of vulnerability. Reports suggest that many of these girls are victims of physical abuse, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and psychological trauma (FSCE, 2003; Lugalla & Kibassa, 2002). Despite the Dire Dawa Bureau of Women and Children Affairs (DDBoWCA, 2013) identifying street children as a major social issue, particularly in the city's nine urban kebeles, comprehensive research on their psychosocial experiences remains scarce.

According to DDBoWCA (2013), Dire Dawa has over 25,000 orphaned and vulnerable children, with 8,100 (32%) orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. The increasing number of street children is linked to family disintegration, extreme household poverty, rural-urban migration, and a lack of social

protection systems. Many children abandon their families to live on the streets, where they face multiple psychosocial challenges, including substance abuse, psychological distress, and social exclusion (UNICEF, BoSCA & BoFED, 2007).

Furthermore, female street children in Dire Dawa are at a higher risk of sexual violence, often leading to unwanted pregnancies, exposure to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and long-term psychological trauma (Tsegaye, 2003). Previous studies have found that in some Ethiopian cities, up to 40% of female street children over 12 years old engage in prostitution as a survival mechanism (UNICEF, BoSCA & BoFED, 2007). However, no recent research has investigated how these factors impact female street children in Dire Dawa specifically, leaving a critical gap in understanding their lived experiences and coping mechanisms.

Despite various governmental and non-governmental interventions, the psychosocial problems of female street children remain poorly addressed. Existing research primarily focuses on Addis Ababa and other major cities, neglecting the unique challenges faced by street girls in Dire Dawa. There is an urgent need to investigate the psychosocial experiences of female street children in Dire Dawa, including the specific factors pushing them onto the streets, their daily struggles, and their coping mechanisms. Without a clear understanding of these dynamics, interventions remain inadequate and fail to address the root causes of the issue.

This study seeks to fill this research gap by providing an in-depth exploration of the psychological, social, and emotional realities of street girls in Dire Dawa. It aims to analyze the factors that contribute to their presence on the streets, their survival strategies, and the ways they navigate their daily hardships. Furthermore, it will examine the effectiveness of existing support systems and identify potential improvements in social work interventions tailored to their needs. By shedding light on the lived experiences of female street children, this research will contribute to more informed policy decisions and targeted social interventions that address their vulnerabilities and provide sustainable solutions.

1.3. Basic Research Questions

1. What are the pushing factors for girls' street life in Dire Dawa City?
2. How Street girls do experience psychosocial life in Dire-Dawa City?

3. How do Street girls cope with their street life in Dire Dawa City?

4. How one can develop an effective psychosocial support system for street girls in Dire Dawa City?

1.4. Objectives of the Study

1.4.1. General objective

The general objective of the study was to explore the psychosocial experiences of a street girl life those are aged between 9- 18 years in some selected kebeles in Dire-Dawa city.

1.4.2. Specific objectives

In line with the general objective of the study was focused on the following specific objective.

- Examine the pushing factors to girls' street life in Dire-Dawa City.
- Investigate the psychosocial experience of street girls in Dire-Dawa City.
- Identify the coping strategies of girls' street life in Dire Dawa City.
- Explore possible psychosocial support systems provided for street girls in Dire Dawa city.

1.5. Significance of The Study

This study holds significant value in shedding light on the real-life experiences of street girls in Dire Dawa City, particularly by identifying their major psychosocial challenges. Understanding these experiences is crucial for the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies tailored to the needs of this vulnerable population. By addressing the underlying causes and consequences of street life for girls, the study aims to support the development of evidence-based programs that prioritize their protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society.

The findings will benefit a range of stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), social workers, policymakers, community-based organizations, child protection service providers, researchers, and local communities. These stakeholders play a vital role in designing and implementing comprehensive interventions that enhance the welfare of street children, particularly girls, and improve child protection mechanisms.

Specifically, government agencies such as the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, social welfare departments, and local administrations will benefit from empirical data that can guide policy amendment and strengthen existing child protection laws and social welfare programs. The study will provide evidence-based insights to improve support mechanisms, enhance law enforcement against child exploitation, and develop strategic interventions aimed at reducing the prevalence of street children in Dire Dawa.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) working in child protection, gender equality, and social work will benefit from the study's findings by gaining a deeper understanding of the specific needs of street girls. This knowledge will help them design targeted intervention programs, provide psychosocial support, and advocate for better resources and funding for vulnerable children. Additionally, the study will assist social workers and psychologists in tailoring counseling services, mental health programs, and rehabilitation efforts that specifically address the trauma and emotional struggles of street girls.

The research will also serve as a valuable resource for different child protection actors at the local, regional, and national levels, offering data-driven recommendations to strengthen child protection frameworks. By addressing the root causes of child homelessness, abuse, and exploitation, the study will contribute to the development of long-term sustainable institutional policies that focus on prevention and support.

At the community level, families, educators, religious leaders, and local communities will benefit from increased awareness about the challenges faced by street girls. This will promote community engagement in child protection, encourage family reunification efforts, and foster a culture of social responsibility in addressing the issue.

Most importantly, street girls themselves will directly benefit from the study's impact. By highlighting their experiences, needs, and aspirations, the study will help through providing recommendation for child protection actors to shape interventions that provide better access to education, healthcare, and safe shelters. It will also empower them through advocacy efforts, ensuring that their voices are heard in policy discussions. Furthermore, it will provide insight to addressing the psychological, social, and economic barriers they face, the study aims to as child

protection actors facilitate their reintegration into society, improve their self-esteem, and enhance their overall well-being.

To ensure widespread dissemination of the findings, the study results will be shared through policy briefs, academic publications, workshops, and conferences. By engaging multiple stakeholders in collaborative discussions, this research will contribute to informed decision-making and the development of effective interventions for street girls in Dire Dawa and beyond.

Ultimately, this study will enhance awareness, attitudes, and knowledge among families, communities, and institutions regarding the protection of children's rights and well-being. As a result, efforts to ensure child welfare, advocacy, and social reintegration will be significantly strengthened.

1.6. Delimitation of The Study

This study is delimited in terms of geography, participants, theoretical scope, and methodology. Geographically, the research focuses on selected kebeles within Dire Dawa City, where a significant number of street children, particularly girls, are concentrated. These kebeles were deliberately chosen due to their high prevalence of street children and the observed social and economic challenges affecting them. Reports from the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs (DDBoWCA, 2013) indicate that these areas have higher rates of child homelessness, family disintegration, extreme poverty, and vulnerability to abuse and exploitation. Therefore, studying these specific locations provides a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of street girls and the underlying causes of their circumstances.

Conceptually, the study focuses on the psychosocial experiences of street girls aged 9 to 18 years. This age range was chosen based on several considerations. Girls younger than 9 years were excluded because their cognitive and emotional development might not allow them to fully articulate their experiences, making it difficult to collect reliable data. Additionally, girls who have been on the street for less than three months were excluded, as they may still be in an adjustment phase and may not have fully experienced the psychosocial realities of street life. Furthermore, girls above 18 years were not included, as they are legally considered adults and may face different challenges that extend beyond the scope of child-focused research.

This study primarily explores psychosocial challenges, contributing factors to street life, coping mechanisms, and potential preventive and intervention strategies, rather than broader socio-economic or legal aspects.

Methodologically, the study employs a qualitative phenomenological approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the lived experiences of street girls. Data collection is conducted through **in**-depth interviews and participant observations, allowing for rich, descriptive accounts of their experiences.

Additionally, the study focuses exclusively on the psychosocial dimensions of street life, including emotional distress, social relationships, survival strategies, and resilience, without addressing broader economic or legal frameworks. This focused approach ensures a detailed examination of the selected aspects while leaving room for future research to explore other dimensions.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

Girls: This term refers to females below the age of 18, encompassing both pre-adolescent and adolescent stages of development. In the context of this study, girls are considered within the legally defined category of childhood, as recognized by international and national child rights conventions.

Life Experience: The sum of personal, social, and environmental encounters that shape an individual's thoughts, behaviors, and overall well-being. It includes both positive and negative experiences that contribute to personal growth, adaptation, and coping strategies.

Psychosocial: A concept that integrates psychological and social influences on an individual's well-being. It refers to the interaction between mental health, emotional state, and social environment, which together impact a person's ability to function and cope with challenges.

Street: In this study, "street" refers to public spaces and urban community settings often associated with homelessness, poverty, and marginalization. These locations include sidewalks, marketplaces, abandoned buildings, and other informal shelters where street children reside or work.

Street Girl: A female child aged between 9 and 18 years who either partially or fully lives on the street due to poverty, family breakdown, abuse, or other socio-economic factors. This term includes girls who have no permanent home and rely on the streets for survival, as well as those who spend significant time on the street but may return to a family or guardian at times.

Psychosocial Experience: Within the scope of this study, psychosocial experience refers to the various factors affecting the mental and social well-being of street girls. It includes elements such as quality of life, stigma, and exposure to negative mental health outcomes, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), mood disorders, adjustment difficulties, social isolation, and behavioral changes. These experiences influence their ability to adapt, interact, and seek support within their environments.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter covers the concepts related to the lives of street girls, their psychosocial experiences, the factors contributing to their street life, the challenges they face, and strategies to prevent or intervene in their psychosocial experiences.

2.1. Definition and Concept of Street Girls

Street life is often viewed as an adaptive response to the stress experienced by families in impoverished conditions. For many children, moving to the streets represents a desire to escape from negative family dynamics or to take control over their lives by replacing old values and behaviors with new ones (Myburgh, Moolla, & Poggenpoel, 2015). The experience of living on the streets is marked by a lack of protection and care from responsible adults, with the street becoming a primary source of livelihood. Street children, including street girls, face extreme vulnerability, including physical and emotional exploitation, neglect, and exposure to danger (Sharma & Verma, 2013).

The growing body of research on homelessness in developing countries has highlighted the plight of street children. Homeless street females, or street girls, are defined as those without stable homes, often sleeping on pavements and lacking basic needs such as access to safe water, sanitation, and personal security. They also often suffer from a lack of self-determination, dignity, and personal expression (Olufemi, 2000).

According to UNICEF, street children are defined as those under the age of 16 who leave their families and communities to live on the streets. These children typically engage in economic activities to survive on the streets. Street girls represent a particularly complex social issue, as their situation is deeply interconnected with issues of poverty, gender inequality, and social marginalization. The population of street girls has been increasing over time due to these factors.

There are many definitions for street children, but the definition introduced by Inter-NGO Program (cited in UNCHS, 2000, p.73) covers important dimensions: Any girl or boy for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his

or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood; and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults.

There are two groups of street children. The first group is 'Children of the street', which refers to children who are homeless, and streets in urban areas are their source of livelihood, where they sleep and live. The second group is 'Children on the street', who work and live on the streets in the daytime but return back home at night where they sleep, although some of them sleep occasionally on the streets (UNCHS, 2000). Nevertheless, there is no clear distinction between the two groups as they often differ from their common definition: some 'children of the street' may still have links with their families and some 'children on the street' often sleep on the street (UNICEF, 2001).

2.2. Causes of Street Children And Their Life on Street

Street children are primarily a product of socio-economic vulnerabilities, with their origins often traced back to structural disadvantages in their home environments. Parental loss through death or separation, lack of adequate housing, and economic deprivation are significant factors that push children to the streets in search of survival. Ward and Seager (2010) highlight several push factors contributing to children's street life, including abuse, domestic violence, and poor family relationships, which make living at home unbearable and compel children to seek refuge on the streets. These children, as a result, are exposed to a harsh reality where survival becomes the primary concern.

Poverty, low education levels, abuse, and inadequate parenting are recognized as the primary drivers of children's street life. According to Ward and Seager (2010), when family life becomes intolerable, children often opt for the streets as a means of escaping abusive or neglectful situations. The global nature of the street child phenomenon can be seen in regions such as South America, Asia, and Africa, where socio-economic inequalities exacerbate the issue. However, the extent, nature, and underlying causes of street life vary across countries, influenced by factors like economic development, cultural settings, institutional interventions, and societal peace (Kibrom, 2008). Despite the variability, the core causes remain consistent: poverty, family breakdown, and

social instability. Therefore, understanding the specific factors contributing to children's lives on the streets is essential to developing lasting solutions to this global issue (Kopoka, 2000).

Several additional factors contribute to the appeal of street life for children. The absence of stable family care, often due to parental death or displacement from natural disasters or conflict, forces many children into homelessness. In some cases, children view the streets as a space of freedom and opportunity, especially when contrasted with the oppressive conditions they may face at home or in institutions. Moreover, the allure of a potentially better life, access to drugs, and the influence of gangs further contribute to the vulnerability of children on the streets (Anna, 2015). The impacts of HIV/AIDS, increased poverty, and displacement also exacerbate the conditions that drive children to the streets, though these factors must be understood in their specific context, as they vary across regions (Hosegood, 2009; UNICEF, 2013; Miguel, 2010).

2.2.1. Gender-based disparity in urban areas and child domestic work

In many African countries, the plight of vulnerable children, particularly girls, is closely tied to cultural practices such as child domestic work (CDW). Often, poor children, especially girls, are taken in by extended family members or placed into domestic work to learn household skills, which are considered part of their training for womanhood (Thorsen, 2012). While this practice is intended to prepare them for future responsibilities, it can also expose them to exploitation and abuse. Children as young as eight years old are sometimes forced to work in domestic settings, often in urban areas where child labor is more prevalent (Jacquemin, 2004).

This type of labor, often under the guise of "training," can have detrimental effects on the physical and emotional well-being of young girls. These children are frequently subjected to long hours of work, inadequate nutrition, and physical punishment, leading to significant psychological and emotional distress. The issue of child domestic work is thus intertwined with the broader socio-economic conditions that contribute to children's vulnerability, as these children often have little access to education, healthcare, or protection from abuse.

2.2.2. Abuse and maltreatment

The breakdown of parental safety nets often leaves adolescents, particularly those who migrate from rural areas to urban centers, vulnerable to a variety of risks. These risks include engagement in harmful behaviors and, for girls, the potential for exploitation and abuse. Eke (2003) and Govender & Moodley (2004) note that a lack of family protection is a significant push factor for children to migrate to the streets, where they face exploitation, neglect, and maltreatment. Girls working as domestic workers, in particular, are vulnerable to various forms of abuse, such as physical violence, denial of food, and even threats of death if they attempt to escape their abusive circumstances (Thorsen, 2012; LaFraniere, 2005; Skinner et al., 2006). The abusive conditions in domestic work settings can have long-term psychological and physical impacts on the children, limiting their opportunities for a better life and leaving them vulnerable to further exploitation.

2.2.3. Power and risky sexual behavior

Migration, combined with unequal power dynamics in relationships, significantly contributes to early sexual debut and the vulnerability of girls to sexual exploitation. Luke et al. (2012) and Shefer (2016) argue that early migration exposes girls to dangerous situations, where they may be coerced or manipulated into sexual relationships. This early engagement with sex, often in exchange for food, shelter, or protection, heightens their risk of contracting HIV and experiencing other forms of sexual violence. Cultural practices that encourage early marriage or limit girls' autonomy in relationships further exacerbate this vulnerability, as these practices deprive girls of control over their own bodies and relationships. Conjoh et al. (2011) and Jewkes et al. (2010) stress that these power dynamics play a pivotal role in perpetuating the cycle of abuse and sexual violence faced by street girls. Ballet & Bhukuth (2016) and Foster (2000) emphasize that addressing these power imbalances is crucial in protecting vulnerable girls from exploitation and abuse.

2.3. Psychosocial Experience of Street Girls' Life

Street girls experience a range of psychosocial challenges that stem from their harsh living conditions and lack of basic social services. Many of these girls face a daily struggle for survival, which includes securing food, shelter, and protection from harm. Research indicates that the absence of access to essential services like healthcare, education, and recreational activities

exacerbates their vulnerability (Mahderehiwot, 2014). In addition to material deprivation, street children also experience psychological distress, including depression, anxiety, and restlessness. Ayub, Kumat & Shora (2015) further point out that these emotional struggles contribute to a reduced sense of resilience among street children. A lack of support systems and social services can also diminish their ability to cope with the trauma they face daily.

Moolla, Myburgh & Poggenpoel (2015) observe that children living on the streets are at a heightened risk of mental health problems due to their ongoing exposure to trauma, abuse, and deprivation. The environment on the streets, which is marked by constant survival struggles, affects every aspect of a street child's functioning. Children living on the streets, including those displaced by poverty, natural disasters, or conflict, often lack the psychological and social support systems that could help them recover from their traumatic experiences (World Health Organization, 2000).

Street girls face multiple forms of trauma, including neglect, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse. These compounded hardships severely diminish their resilience. The street becomes not only a place of survival but also a space where these girls experience their everyday lives—acting as their home, workplace, and playground (Plummer, Kudrati, & Dafalla El Hag, 2007). The vulnerability of street girls is further amplified by stigma and discrimination, which often marginalize them from society. They are perceived as threats or delinquents rather than victims of systemic failures, leading to rejection, further isolation, and inadequate intervention.

Street girls are frequently excluded from societal support structures, as society tends to view them through a negative lens. This perception often leads to ineffective or inadequate interventions. Negative stereotypes about street girls, such as viewing them as troublemakers or promiscuous, significantly hinder efforts to address their needs (Shimels, 2015). As a result, these girls often receive limited social support, and intervention programs may fail to meet their specific needs. BoakeBoaten (2006) highlights that such negative perceptions and biases contribute to ineffective interventions and the persistence of the challenges street girls face.

In conclusion, the psychosocial experiences of street girls are shaped by a combination of systemic neglect, exploitation, trauma, and societal rejection. These factors significantly impact their mental

and emotional well-being, making it essential to create targeted interventions that address the unique vulnerabilities of street girls, challenge negative perceptions, and provide the necessary support to help them reintegrate into society.

2.4. Female Street Children In Ethiopia

Ethiopia faces significant socio-economic challenges that contribute to the growing problem of street children, particularly in urban centers like Addis Ababa. Despite efforts to improve the country's infrastructure, the persistent issues of poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and rural bias in governmental policies exacerbate the plight of vulnerable children. As a result, many children, particularly girls, end up living on the streets in search of survival (Bigsten, 2003; Yohannes, 2005). According to UNICEF (2007), between 500,000 and 700,000 children live on the streets in Ethiopia, with approximately 150,000 residing in Addis Ababa alone, of which 25% are female.

Female street children in Ethiopia face disproportionately harsh conditions compared to their male counterparts. These girls are at heightened risk of sexual abuse, rape, and exploitation, often becoming victims of forced prostitution, sexual violence, and early pregnancies as young as 12 years old (UNICEF, 2007). The extreme vulnerability of these girls exposes them to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and unwanted pregnancies, perpetuating a cycle of street life and further marginalization. These risks are compounded by the lack of protective family and societal structures, leaving the girls without viable alternatives for survival.

Gender-based violence is a significant issue for female street children, with forced commercial sex work being one of the survival strategies they are coerced into due to limited options (UNICEF, BoSCA, and BoFED, 2007). This exploitation increases their exposure to sexual abuse, which often results in health risks such as HIV, STIs, and early pregnancies. Moreover, these girls are also subject to physical violence and abuse, which significantly affects their mental and physical well-being. The power dynamics that exist in urban areas make them more susceptible to exploitation by adults and peers, rendering them particularly vulnerable in the harsh environments of the streets.

Family arrangements are a contributing factor to the vulnerability of female street children. Tsegaye (2003) argues that female-headed households and households with stepparents are more likely to push children, particularly girls, into street life. Economic necessity, coupled with changing urban dynamics, forces many girls into street life, despite traditional societal expectations that girls should remain within the domestic unit. The disruption of family structures—whether through economic hardship, domestic violence, or parental loss—makes it difficult for girls to find stability within their homes, thus increasing their risk of being pushed onto the streets.

Sexual abuse and exploitation are pervasive issues for female street children, often subjecting them to physical, sexual, and psychological harm. De Oliveira (2000) emphasizes the severe consequences of such abuse, which include exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, promiscuity, early pregnancies, and overall physical and emotional distress. These girls are often deprived of their childhoods, forced to navigate adulthood too early, while also coping with the trauma of abuse and neglect.

There is an urgent need to understand the causes and risk factors behind the sexual abuse and exploitation of female street children in Ethiopia, especially in Addis Ababa. The circumstances that lead to their situation must be examined comprehensively, as well as the survival strategies these children adopt to cope with their reality. Moreover, the roles of various stakeholders—such as the government, NGOs, and local communities—must be explored to understand how they can address the immediate needs of these vulnerable children.

In conclusion, female street children in Ethiopia face a multitude of risks and challenges, from sexual abuse and exploitation to health complications such as HIV/AIDS and early pregnancies. Their vulnerabilities are compounded by family dynamics, poverty, and the lack of protective systems. It is essential to conduct further research into the specific causes and risk factors contributing to their situation, in order to design effective interventions that can provide these children with the support they need to escape the cycle of abuse and poverty. Understanding the multifaceted nature of their experiences is critical for developing comprehensive solutions to the challenges faced by female street children in Ethiopia.

2.5. Empirical Studies

Life on the streets for children is fraught with significant psychosocial challenges, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, substance abuse, criminal activity, and human rights violations. These harsh realities undermine their developmental processes and can have long-lasting negative effects, such as low self-esteem, mistrust of others, and difficulties in forming healthy interpersonal relationships (Hai, 2018). Street children, including those in Ethiopia, face constant threats and exploitation, often leading to feelings of despair, fear, and anxiety. These emotional burdens can drive them into drug abuse and criminal activities as coping mechanisms (Myburgh, Moolla, & Poggenpoel, 2015). In the Philippines, street children represent a fast-growing and neglected minority group, highlighting the global nature of this issue (Manapsal, Alcaraz, Antoquia & Francisco, 2015).

In Ethiopia, street children are among the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society, suffering from a lack of basic necessities such as food, shelter, and access to education. Although the issue of street children has been acknowledged for over 15 years, the numbers continue to rise, and the full extent of the problem remains unclear (WHO, 2000; Lalor, 1999). Estimates indicate that over 100,000 children live on the streets across Ethiopia's cities, with over 2,500 street children in Hawassa alone (FSCE, 1993). These children are subject to various forms of abuse, including verbal, physical, and sexual violence, often exacerbated by the public's indifference to their suffering (Shimelis, 2015)

2.6. Challenges of The Street Girls

Street girls face unique challenges that intensify the difficulties of street life. Beyond the general hardships experienced by all street children—such as a lack of food, shelter, and healthcare—street girls are particularly vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and abuse. In many cases, these girls disguise their gender by dressing as boys to avoid gender-based discrimination and the heightened dangers that girls face on the streets. This deliberate gender concealment reflects the hostile environment that street girls must navigate daily.

In addition to physical and emotional abuse, street girls face severe social isolation and marginalization, which exacerbates their vulnerability to exploitation. Without access to education or social support, these girls often become targets for adult predators and are forced into labor or sexual exploitation. The lack of safety and protection leaves them exposed to further abuse, and their isolation makes it difficult for them to escape their circumstances (UNICEF, 2020; Chimdessa, 2022).

Moreover, many street children, particularly girls, suffer from depression, anxiety, and trauma due to their experiences on the streets. These emotional and psychological challenges are compounded by the physical abuse they endure, as well as their lack of access to basic services, including healthcare and education (Alsada, 2022). These girls are also at risk of trafficking and forced labor due to their vulnerability and lack of protection.

2.7. Preventive and Intervention Strategies of Street Girls

Protecting children in street situations from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation and providing them access to other essential services (e.g., birth registration, shelter, health, nutrition, education, and legal services) is vital to ensuring their rights. It is therefore critical to invest in strengthening child protection systems in cities, including strengthening the social service workforce for child protection (UNICEF, 2020).

Children and young people must have access to technical and vocational training and twenty-first-century skills they need for productive lives and work. This in turn will increase and improve the number of quality work opportunities available to youth, while at the same time, they will stay protected from violence and exploitation (Hossain, & Coren, 2015).

Interventions relating to children in street situations must focus on reducing equity gaps in urban areas through technical support and partnerships to plan, budget, coordinate, and extend quality social services to marginalized children living in urban settings and protect all children from violence, promoting a safe and sustainable urban environment for children, and strengthening the evidence base on children in urban areas, in data, policy, and research (Mizen, 2014).

What is also clear is that children in street situations actively establish relations of mutual support and interdependence and that their agency extends to relations of cooperation, coordination, and reciprocity as situations permit (Mizen & OfosuKusi, 2010).

2.8. Trauma and Resilience Theory

In recent years, there have been increasing studies focusing on the risk factors and service provisions of street children. Trauma and resilience theory can be applied to the study of the psychosocial experiences of street girls' lives in various ways (Iacoviello, & Charney, 2014). Street girls often face multiple forms of trauma, including physical and sexual abuse, exploitation, homelessness, and the lack of access to basic needs such as education and healthcare. Trauma theory helps in understanding the impact of these experiences on the mental health and well-being of street girls (Nugent, Sumner, & Amstadter, 2014).

Despite the usefulness of trauma-informed interventions and research for those who have been directly exposed to horrific life experiences, it has been critiqued for pathologizing groups, such as females, who are more likely to have prior exposure to higher levels of stress. This is particularly true in the case of girls who have been compelled to work and live on the streets of the developing world where they are at a higher risk of experiencing traumatizing events and ongoing adversities (Brokenleg, 2012).

Resilience theory, on the other hand, focuses on the strengths and coping mechanisms that individuals develop in response to adversity. When studying the psychosocial experiences of street girls, resilience theory can help identify the factors that contribute to their ability to cope and adapt to challenging circumstances. This may include factors such as social support, personal agency, and access to resources (Nugent, Sumner, & Amstadter, 2014).

When exploring the psychosocial experiences of street girls' lives, researchers may use trauma and resilience theory to gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges they face as well as their capacity for resilience. This can inform interventions and support systems that aim to address the needs of this vulnerable population (Han, Miller, Nkimbeng, Budhathoki, Mikhael, Rivers, 2021).

The perceptions and experiences of street children, both male and female, have recently gained increased attention. However, analyses of the specific experiences and needs of girls who are part of the street-entrenched community are not as common as gender-neutral studies of street life,

despite earlier suggestions that female children may have a riskier experience of the street, and the evidence that girls are more vulnerable when living away from home and are often not in a position to make choices to leave the street environment (Han, Miller, Nkimbeng, Budhathoki, Mikhael, & Rivers, 2021).

For the young people involved, narratives of resilience and hope that inform social and cultural attitudes to children's knowledge of the world can mask extensive and severe trauma experiences and the ongoing effects these can have over the life course. Efforts to overcome exposure to major trauma and its consequences must be carefully interwoven with efforts to recognize, maintain, and build on children's competencies and knowledge base, to build coping skills and hope for the future (Brokenleg, 2012).

2.9. Theoretical Framework

To comprehensively understand the lived experiences of street girls, this study is anchored in multiple theoretical perspectives that explain the contributing factors to street life, the psychosocial challenges faced, and potential intervention strategies. The following theories provide a conceptual foundation .

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory (1979) offers a comprehensive perspective by examining how multiple layers of the environment—from immediate family and peers (microsystem) to broader societal and cultural influences (macrosystem)—shape an individual's development. This theory is particularly useful for understanding street girls' experiences as it captures how factors such as family dysfunction, social support systems, community dynamics, and public policy collectively influence their psychosocial well-being (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).ndation for analyzing this complex social issue.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (1943) provides insight into the motivational and psychological dimensions underlying street girls' experiences. By emphasizing that basic needs—such as food, shelter, and safety—must be met before higher-level needs like belonging, esteem, and self-actualization can be pursued, this theory helps to elucidate the challenges street girls face in achieving overall psychological health and social integration (Maslow, 1943).

Social Disorganization Theory (Shaw & McKay, 1942)

Social Disorganization Theory, introduced by Shaw and McKay (1942), explains how environmental instability and weakened social structures contribute to deviant behaviors, particularly among children living on the streets. According to this theory, several factors drive children into street life, including family breakdown, economic hardship, weak institutional support, and community instability. Dysfunctional family units, often characterized by domestic violence, parental neglect, and substance abuse, disrupt the socialization process and push children toward independent survival (Shaw & McKay, 1942).

Additionally, economic hardship in urban slums, marked by high unemployment rates and widespread poverty, forces children to seek alternative means of survival, such as begging, petty crimes, or exploitative labor. The failure of social institutions, including schools, child protection agencies, and law enforcement, further exacerbates the issue by leaving at-risk children without proper intervention and rehabilitation.

Moreover, high-crime neighborhoods with low social cohesion expose children to delinquency, substance abuse, and violence, reinforcing their engagement in street life. This theory underscores the importance of community-based interventions, strengthening social institutions, and addressing systemic poverty as essential solutions for reducing the prevalence of street children (Shaw & McKay, 1942).

The combination of these three theoretical perspectives—Ecological Systems Theory, Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, and Social Disorganization Theory—provides a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing street girls’ experiences. Together, they highlight the interplay between individual, social, and structural factors that shape their vulnerabilities, while also guiding policy recommendations and intervention strategies. Addressing street life among girls requires a holistic approach that incorporates family strengthening, community support, legal protections, and economic empowerment programs.

2.10. Summary of The Literature Review

The literature review on female street children in Ethiopia explores the multifaceted challenges they face, including abuse, exploitation, and marginalization. Ethiopia is grappling with a growing issue of street children, particularly in urban centers like Addis Ababa, where an estimated 150,000

children live on the streets, with 25% of them being female. These girls are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, and early motherhood. Family dynamics, such as female-headed households, and economic pressures push many girls into street life, where they endure severe physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as exploitation in commercial sex work (UNICEF, 2007).

Empirical studies confirm that street children, both male and female, face harsh conditions, including lack of food, shelter, and access to education and healthcare, leading to substance abuse, crime, and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Street girls, however, face additional challenges due to gender-specific risks, such as sexual violence, discrimination, and a lack of social support. They may disguise their gender to avoid exploitation, but this increases their isolation and vulnerability. Street girls often lack the support of trusted adults and are more likely to experience exploitation, including trafficking and forced labor (Chimdessa, 2022; UNICEF, 2020).

The literature also highlights the importance of effective interventions. These should focus on protecting street-connected children, providing essential services such as shelter, healthcare, and education, and promoting vocational training to help them build a future outside the streets. Strengthening child protection systems and reducing urban equity gaps are crucial steps in addressing the needs of street children, especially girls. Theories of trauma and resilience provide frameworks to understand the psychological impacts of street life, with trauma theory focusing on the negative effects of abuse and resilience theory emphasizing the strengths and coping mechanisms that can help street girls overcome their adversities (Iacoviello & Charney, 2014; Nugent, Sumner, & Amstadter, 2014).

Combining Ecological Systems Theory, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and Social Disorganization Theory offers a well-rounded perspective on the factors affecting street girls' experiences. This integration emphasizes the interaction between personal, social, and structural influences that contribute to their vulnerabilities while also informing policy development and intervention efforts.

Together, they highlight the interplay between individual, social, and structural factors that shape their vulnerabilities, while also guiding policy recommendations and intervention strategies. Tackling the issue of street life among girls requires a comprehensive strategy that includes strengthening families, fostering community support, ensuring legal safeguards, and implementing economic empowerment initiatives.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This section outlines the research approach, study area description, research design, data collection methods, sampling design, sample size determination, data collection instruments, and data analysis methods.

3.1. Description of the Study Area

The research was conducted in Dire Dawa city, located in eastern Ethiopia, 515 kilometers east of Addis Ababa and 307 kilometers south of Djibouti. Geographically, the city lies between 9 degrees 27' - and 49-degrees north latitude and 41 degrees 38' and 21 degrees 19' east longitude. Dire Dawa is bordered to the north and west by the Somali region and to the east, southeast, and south by the Oromia National Regional State (CSA, 2007). According to the Central Statistics Agency, the total population of Dire Dawa City Administration is 612,791, with 65.6 percent (401,936) residing in nine urban kebeles, while the remaining 34.5 percent live in rural areas. Females make up approximately 49.5 percent (303,524) of the total population (CSA, 2013). Dire Dawa is one of the most urbanized cities in Ethiopia, with a significant proportion of its population concentrated in urban kebeles.

The city comprises nine urban and 38 rural kebeles. According to the Dire Dawa Bureau of Women and Children Affairs (DDBoWCA, 2013), major social issues in Dire Dawa, particularly in the urban kebeles, include the prevalence of street children and other orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). These issues stem from factors such as HIV/AIDS-related parental deaths, family breakdowns, human trafficking, rural-to-urban migration, and extreme household poverty. A report by the bureau estimates that Dire Dawa has over 25,000 OVC, with 8,100 (32%) orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. Additionally, many children have abandoned their families to live on the streets (DDBoWCA, 2013). To address these challenges, the bureau collaborates with government and private organizations to provide community-based childcare services in the city.

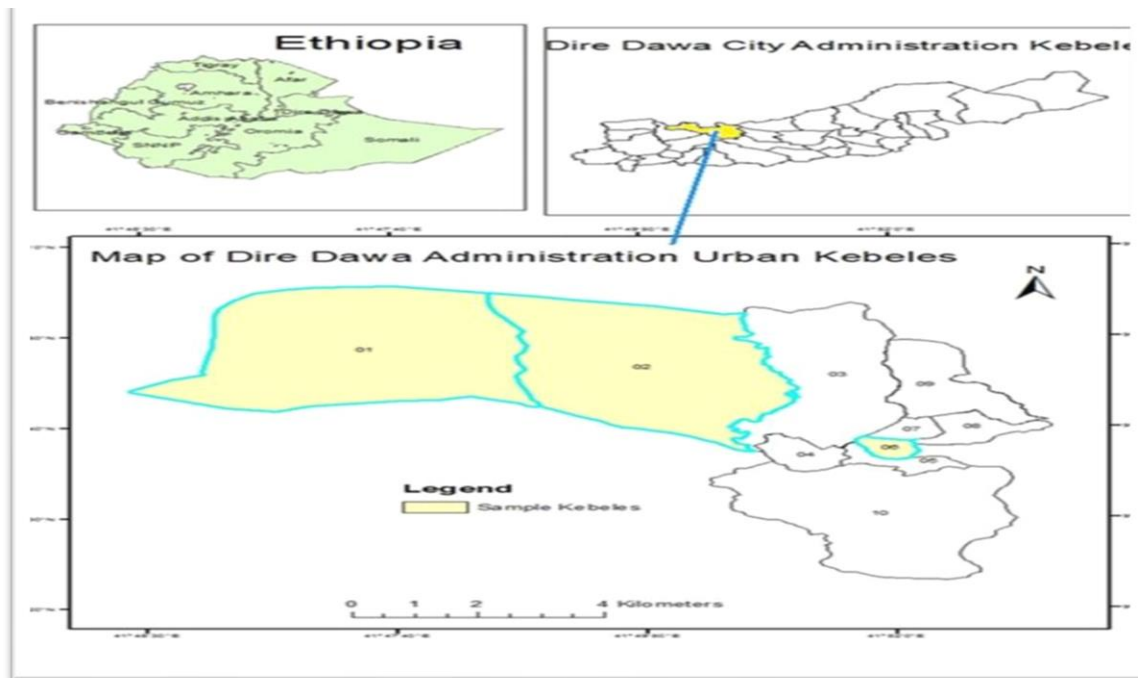


Figure 1 : Map of Dire Dawa Administration urban kebeles

3.2. Research Design

The study employed a qualitative research approach, specifically a phenomenological design, to explore and describe the lived experiences of street girls in selected kebeles, including Kebele 02, kebele 03, kebele 04, kebele 05, and kebele 06 in Dire Dawa city. A phenomenological qualitative method focuses on understanding and exploring individuals' lived experiences regarding a particular phenomenon (Creswell & Poth, 2018). This approach seeks to uncover the essence of human experiences and how individuals make sense of the world around them.

3.3. Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary sources of data were used to enhance the findings of the research.

3.3.1. Primary sources of data

Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews and systematic observation, providing firsthand insights into the lived experiences of street girls in Dire Dawa. These primary data sources were instrumental in answering research questions related to the personal experiences,

challenges, and coping mechanisms of street girls. Specifically, the following research questions were addressed through primary data collection:

- What are the psychosocial experiences of street girls in Dire Dawa?
- What challenges do street girls face in their daily lives?
- How do street girls cope with their circumstances and seek support?

3.3.2. Secondary sources of data

Secondary data were obtained from policy documents, research reports from national and international organizations, and published academic papers relevant to the study. These sources provided contextual background and supported the analysis of primary data. The research questions addressed by secondary data sources included:

- What policies and interventions exist to support street children in Ethiopia?
- What are the statistical trends and demographic characteristics of street children in Dire Dawa?
- What are the broader socio-economic and cultural factors contributing to child homelessness in Ethiopia?

3.4. Population, Sample Size, and Sampling Techniques

3.4.1. Population

The study population comprised street girls in Dire Dawa city, who were selected purposively based on criteria such as age and their common gathering areas. Purposeful sampling is effective in capturing in-depth insights from specific subgroups with unique experiences (Creswell, 2009).

3.4.2 Sample size and sampling techniques

The study involved a total of 20 participants, consisting of 10 street girls and 10 key stakeholders. The street girls, aged between 9 and 18 years, were selected through convenience sampling from key locations across various kebeles. These included Sabiyan, Sido, and Meskelegn in Kebele 02; Kezira and Number One border to Ashewa area in Kebele 03; Gende Kore Market Place in Kebele

04; Coca-Cola old bus station, Shell, Addis Ketema Village, and Kefira border in Kebele 05; and Dechatu Village in Kebele 06. The selection ensured representation from different areas while capturing diverse lived experiences. This age range was chosen to reflect the vulnerability of young girls living on the streets and their exposure to various psychosocial challenges.

The researcher decided to include and exclude the girls' age range for several reasons, in this connections, girls under the age of 9 were excluded because their cognitive and emotional development may limit their ability to clearly express their experiences, making data collection less reliable. Similarly, those who had been on the street for less than six months were not included, as they might still be in the adjustment phase and not yet fully exposed to the psychosocial realities of street life. Additionally, girls over 18 were excluded since they are legally recognized as adults and may encounter challenges that go beyond the focus of child-centered research.

Additionally, 10 stakeholders, including government officials, civil society experts, and community members, were selected using purposive sampling techniques. These stakeholders were drawn from institutions such as the Dire Dawa Women, Child, and Social Affairs Office, selected woredas' Women, Child, and Social Affairs Bureau, Kezira Police Station, the FSCE Dire Dawa Branch Office, and community representatives from selected kebeles. The study employed a combination of purposive and convenience sampling techniques to ensure a comprehensive selection of participants. Purposeful sampling was used to identify key stakeholders with relevant expertise, while convenience sampling facilitated the recruitment of street girls based on their availability and willingness to participate. This approach allowed for the inclusion of diverse perspectives, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by street girls.

3.5. Data Collection Tools

To generate relevant and detailed information for this study, a combination of data collection methods was employed. Comprehensive interview guides were developed to facilitate effective and well-structured interviews and discussions with respondents. The proposed guidelines were critically reviewed to ensure standardization in the data collection process. Interview questions were carefully selected to encourage discussion and allow for in-depth exploration of key topics.

Additionally, participants were informed about the study's objectives and provided their informed consent, both verbally and in writing, before proceeding with in-depth interviews. The researcher utilized systematic observation and structured interview questions to enhance data accuracy and reliability.

3.5.1. Systematic observation

Systematic observation was used to gather data on the behaviors, activities, and interactions of street girls. This method allowed the researcher to directly observe the day-to-day activities of the girls and their interactions within the community. Observations took place in various locations such as cafes, bus stations, marketplaces, and religious places at different times of the day. This method provided rich, valid data that supplemented other data collection tools, including interviews.

3.5.2. Unstructured interview

Unstructured interviews were used to gather in-depth data on the psychosocial experiences of street girls. Interview questions were designed based on the study's objectives and existing literature. The interviews were conducted in local languages (Amharic and Afan Oromo) to ensure clarity and understanding. Audio recordings were made with participants' consent, and the data was transcribed and translated by a licensed translator.

3.6. Data Collection Procedure

A structured interview guide was developed to ensure consistency and organization during interviews. Participants were informed about the study's objectives and provided informed consent before participating. The interview questions were carefully crafted to promote detailed discussions and were translated into local languages for clarity.

3.7. Methods of Data Analysis

Data analysis in this qualitative phenomenological study followed a structured, iterative process to identify significant themes and patterns in participants' lived experiences. The study applied the

six-step thematic analysis framework proposed by Braun & Clarke (2006). First, the researcher engaged in familiarization with the data by transcribing and repeatedly reading through all interview transcripts and observation notes to gain an in-depth understanding.

Next, key phrases, statements, and recurring ideas were systematically coded across the dataset to generate initial codes. These codes were then examined and grouped into potential themes based on their relevance to the research questions. The identified themes underwent a rigorous review to ensure their consistency with the coded extracts and the overall dataset. Once validated, each theme was clearly defined and named to encapsulate the essence of the participants' lived experiences.

Finally, the findings were synthesized into a coherent narrative, ensuring an accurate and insightful representation of the perspectives of street girls. This comprehensive approach maintained methodological rigor and credibility while grounding the findings in participants' authentic experiences.

3.8. Ethical Considerations

Concerning ethical considerations, all the research participants and concerned bodies were informed about the objectives and the purpose of the research. The data was collected from all the study participants with confidentiality: an individual right to have control over the use or access of his or her personal information as well as the right to have the information that he/she shares with the researcher to be kept private.

In doing this study certain ethical considerations were addressed. The consideration of ethical issue is necessary for ensuring the privacy as well as the security of the research participants. To accomplish this aim, formal authorization for the study was received from Haramaya University, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Department of Psychology, postgraduate program and shown to the participants and concerned officials including local authorities. The ethical considerations were identified in advance to prevent future problems that could be raised during the research process. Among the main issues that were considered are consent and confidentiality.

Security permission and gaining the consent of the participants for this study was an important ethical consideration. To achieve this, the researcher expressed the aims of the research clearly for all participants. Developing rapport and gaining the trust of the participants has been

considered essential throughout the research process. The researcher practiced honesty and unconditional positive regard throughout the study to assure the research respondents that their security and safety are of the greatest priority.

The concealment of the respondents as well as the confidentiality of their responses was prioritized. To do so, the names and responses of the research participants were kept confidential. Finally, the researcher ensured that all the data gathered for the study were protected from unauthorized access.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Result

This section presents the findings of the study, which aimed to investigate the psychosocial experiences of girls living on the streets. In-depth interviews were conducted with 10 street girls aged 11 to 18 years and 10 stakeholders, including experts and officials in Dire Dawa city. The findings of the study highlight the complex and challenging realities faced by these vulnerable girls.

4.1.1. Background information of respondents

A total of 20 participants were involved in the study. Ten of these participants were street girls, and the remaining ten were stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organization experts, and community members. Regarding the age distribution, nine participants were adolescents between the ages of 11 and 18, while one participant was in the middle childhood stage, aged 9 to 10 years.

Of the 10 street girls, all except one had dropped out of school at the time of the study. Six of the street girls reported that they were originally from Dire Dawa city, while the other four had migrated from various districts (Woredas) within the East Harerghe zone, Oromia region.

The participants were categorized into two groups: (1) girls on the street and (2) girls off the street. Among the street girls, six had lost one parent, and one girl had lost both parents and had become the head of her household. The remaining three girls had both parents alive, but their parents had divorced. Additionally, one girl's father was in prison.

Six of the street girls had more than five siblings, two had three or four, and the remaining two had one or two. These family size differences shed light on their backgrounds and potential influences on their experiences. Larger families often face financial struggles and limited attention, increasing a child's vulnerability. This can push children toward street life in search of survival. Understanding these dynamics highlights the broader social and economic factors affecting stre

Table 1: Socio-demographic Profile of the Study Population

Parameter	Age Group
7-9	0
10-14	3
15-18	7
Enrollment in school	
No formal Education	0
Primary school 1 st cycle (Grade 1-4)	5
Primary school 2 nd cycle (Grade 5-8)	5
Secondary school (Grad 9-12)	0
Number of siblings	
No siblings	0
1-2 siblings	2
3-4 siblings	2
5 and above siblings	6
Parents living status	
Both parents are alive	3
only father died	6
only mother died	0
both parents died	1
Birthplace/Origin of Street Girls	
Dire Dawa	6
Around of Dire Dawa	4
Girls experience street life for years	
Below 1 year	0
1-2 year	4
3-5 Year	1
Above 5 years	5
Marital status of street girls	
Single	7
Married	3

4.1.2. Contributing factors to girls' street life

Street children, particularly girls, are exposed to various situations that make them vulnerable to stress and psychosocial challenges. The lives of street girls are shaped by numerous psychosocial factors that significantly affect their well-being and development. In Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, the main

triggers for street life are multifaceted and primarily stem from familial, economic, and social factors.

The testimony of one participant strongly highlights the interplay of hope, misinformation, and peer influence in shaping her decision to migrate. She stated, “I moved to Dire Dawa after hearing from a friend about the availability of job opportunities in the city. She had new shoes and fashionable clothes,” interpreting these outward signs as evidence of economic success. Motivated by hope, she continued, “I made the journey to the city, only to find out there were no jobs available. There were no jobs available,” she repeated bluntly, expressing her disillusionment. Faced with limited options, she added, “I became involved in commercial sex work to earn money, just like my friend.”

The testimony highlights the phenomenon of aspirational migration, which is also well documented in the Ethiopian context. Rural youth, particularly girls, often migrate to urban centers like Dire Dawa in search of better livelihoods, influenced by narratives of success and visible symbols of modern life. Ezra and Kiros (2001) found that rural-to-urban migration in Ethiopia is largely driven by perceived economic opportunities rather than actual job availability, especially among young women. In Ethiopia, peer influence is a strong motivator for adolescent migration. According to Abebe (2008), many young girls are encouraged to migrate by friends or relatives who appear successful after moving to urban areas. These decisions are often made with little access to accurate information about the actual conditions in the cities, which contributes to disillusionment and vulnerability.

Upon arrival, many migrants face limited job opportunities, especially those with low educational attainment or without a social support network. Mengistu and Zewdie (2017) argue that urban labor markets in Ethiopia are poorly structured to absorb unskilled youth, pushing many into the informal sector. Young girls, in particular, are at higher risk of being exploited or coerced into precarious work, including domestic labor or commercial sex.

The link between economic desperation and engagement in transactional sex is also evident in the Ethiopian context. A study by Alemayehu et al. (2015) in Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa revealed that young girls who migrate alone are more likely to become involved in sex work due to poverty,

lack of family support, and the influence of peers who normalize or model the behavior. Similarly, Endale (2014) found that urban migrant girls often see transactional sex not as exploitation, but as a means of survival and economic agency in a context where options are severely limited. Furthermore, Save the Children (2019) notes that girls living on the streets in Ethiopian cities face overlapping vulnerabilities—poverty, violence, and social exclusion—which drive them into survival sex, often initiated through peer networks or as a result of unmet needs.

While the participant did not explicitly mention abuse or neglect, it is essential to consider the broader systemic and psychosocial contributors that often set the stage for such migration. De Oliveira (2000) discusses how family breakdown, neglect, and violence are crucial factors in pushing children onto the streets. These broader structural dynamics create fertile ground for the emergence of aspirational myths, as evidenced by the participant's hopes being shaped by misinformation. Although not explicitly mentioned in the participant's story, these systemic contributors play an underlying role in enabling the migration patterns seen in street children.

This study highlights that the migration of street girls is not solely a response to immediate hardship or abuse but is also significantly influenced by hope, misinformation, and peer-driven aspirations. These factors, combined with the lack of economic opportunity and systemic exclusion, create a cycle of vulnerability that leaves these girls open to exploitation and marginalization in urban environments.

In conclusion, the migration pathways of street girls in Dire Dawa are shaped by a complex interplay of hope-driven aspirations, economic misinformation, and peer influence. The emotional and psychosocial consequences of these migrations—such as trauma, disillusionment, and engagement in survival-driven behaviors—underline the need for both policy interventions that address the structural barriers and psychosocial support systems to prevent and mitigate the vulnerabilities faced by these girls.

Further testimony from participants reinforced these points. One girl shared, “Both of my parents had died, leaving me with no one to care for me.” She explained that she migrated from her village to Dire Dawa and joined a group of friends. “To support myself and my husband, I started working as a commercial sex worker at night around the Dechatu area,” she added. Most participants

echoed similar experiences, highlighting factors such as peer pressure, domestic violence, poverty, parental neglect, forced marriage, parental death, substance abuse, and the search for work as key contributors to their street life.

The testimony illustrates how family loss in this case, the death of both parents—leads to migration and further vulnerability. In Ethiopia, parental death is a key driver of youth migration, as many orphans seek refuge in urban centers like Dire Dawa. According to Zelalem (2013), orphanhood is associated with higher risks of early migration, as young people are often left without familial protection or guidance, pushing them into precarious urban environments.

Moreover, domestic violence and neglect are critical factors pushing girls into the streets. Tiruneh et al. (2018) found that in Ethiopia, domestic abuse whether physical, emotional, or sexual is a major push factor for adolescent girls to leave their homes. Such violence often exacerbates their vulnerabilities, leaving them more susceptible to exploitation. This aligns with previous studies, such as one by Tsegaye (2003), which highlights that family disruptions are more prevalent in economically disadvantaged households. In this study, 40% of participants reported family conflict and breakdown, including parental divorce or death, as key reasons for leaving home and resorting to life on the streets.

A major theme that emerged from the interviews and testimonies is the economic hardship faced by children and their families. Approximately 30% of the participants explicitly mentioned economic difficulties as their primary motivation for living on the streets. This reflects the study area inability to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and education. In these cases, street life is not merely a behavioral choice but rather a survival strategy in the face of poverty and familial breakdown. Beyond economic hardship, social factors were repeatedly referenced by key informants and participants.

Domestic violence including physical abuse, emotional neglect, and parental conflict was a recurring reason for children leaving home. The trauma of violent environments at home often compelled them to seek escape, even if it meant enduring the uncertainty and risks of street life. Several children reported that they were safer on the street than at home, a statement that powerfully highlights the severity of domestic dysfunction in their households. Peer pressure also

emerged as a key social influence, especially among adolescents. Testimonies suggested that friends already living on the street often influenced or even encouraged others to join them. In such contexts, the street becomes not only a refuge but a social space offering belonging, albeit temporary and precarious.

Importantly, these causes were not mutually exclusive but rather deeply interconnected. For instance, economic hardship often coexists with family instability, and children in such conditions may be more susceptible to peer influence. Therefore, a child experiencing poverty, abuse, and peer pressure simultaneously is significantly more at risk.

According to the study finding that approximately 30% of the participants explicitly mentioned economic difficulties as their primary motivation for living on the streets, consistent with Abebe's (2008) findings that urban poverty compels children to adopt survival strategies like street life. Domestic violence was another key factor, echoing findings from CSA and UNICEF (2013), which noted high levels of familial abuse and neglect as contributors to child streetism. Peer influence, also observed by Gebresilassie and Zerai (2017), further complicates this picture, especially for adolescents. The interconnected nature of these challenges aligns with Kebede's (2015) assertion that poverty, abuse, and social isolation collectively shape the trajectory into street life.

Additionally supporting studies, such as those conducted by Bhukuth and Jérôme (2015) and Kiros (2016), also note that children in Ethiopia are driven to the streets due to a combination of economic issues, family conflict, parental death, displacement, neglect, lack of educational opportunities, and the allure of urban life. Additionally, the remarriage of a parent often leads to abuse or neglect, further pushing children to leave home.

4.1.3. Psychosocial experiences of street girls' life

The psychosocial experience of street girls is complex and multifaceted, involving various social, emotional, and psychological factors. Street girls face unique challenges stemming from their living conditions, societal perceptions, and lack of support systems. A significant finding from the interviews revealed that many participants experienced feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem due to their circumstances. Key informants described their struggles, emphasizing the hardships of life on the streets.

Many street girls described their lives as “very difficult, unsafe, and full of anxiety.” They frequently endure discomfort, hunger, poverty, and discrimination while struggling to survive without access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing. Beyond these hardships, they also suffer various forms of abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual violence, as well as neglect. Many participants highlighted emotional abuse from their peers and community members as a frequent experience. One participant shared, “People exploit us, especially when we beg for food or money on the streets, which makes life even harder.”

Street girls also face harsh physical conditions, with little access to basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter (Duci & Tahsini, 2016). Additionally, they struggle to access social services like healthcare due to a lack of identification documents, inadequate information, or discrimination from service providers (OHCHR, United Nations, 2013). Besides physical abuse and emotional distress, many also experience sexual harassment, which compounds their trauma. Several respondents expressed feeling unsafe in their environment, leading to heightened levels of anxiety and depression. The constant exposure to conflict, harassment, hunger, health issues, and economic hardship makes life on the streets overwhelming.

As O'Neill and McCarthy-Morley (2004) noted, young girls living on the streets face a higher risk of physical and emotional harm than their male counterparts. The lack of safe spaces intensifies their exposure to harmful environments, often forcing them into risky behaviors for survival. In this study, respondents reported a range of psychosocial challenges, including trauma, abuse, sexual violence, social exclusion, lack of access to education and healthcare, substance abuse, and engagement in high-risk activities. Many girls resorted to begging, working as daily laborers in hotels, engaging in commercial sex work, or collecting recyclable materials to earn money.

One key respondent shared her experience, stating, “I lived here in Dechatu village. I was so depressed and worried because the street youth tried to rape me and also my mother when they were drinking alcohol and using drugs. Street gang members even attacked my mother.” Another participant described the additional trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, saying, “During the coronavirus, it was shocking. We were afraid and depressed because we didn’t have face masks, soap, or clean water to protect ourselves from the virus.” These testimonies highlight the

compounded stress and emotional strain faced by street girls, particularly during public health crises.

Most participants reported a lack of positive experiences while living on the streets. However, some mentioned that the only comfort they found was in the support they provided one another. They formed close bonds, shared food, and worked together to protect themselves from violence.

Key informants from various stakeholder institutions, including the Women and Child Affairs Office, Social and Labor Affairs Office, and the police, reported that many street-connected children, including girls, suffer harm daily from adults, government officials, police officers, other children, and even their own families. They are often denied access to essential rights such as education and healthcare. According to these experts, the increasing number of street girls in Dire Dawa is largely attributed to poverty, family problems, divorce, and peer pressure. Despite these challenges, many street girls also struggle with how they are perceived by the community, with behaviors such as begging further reinforcing negative stereotypes.

Experts emphasized that street girls are particularly vulnerable to psychosocial challenges such as stress, anxiety, isolation, and loneliness. These experiences often lead to more severe problems, including substance abuse and engagement in high-risk behaviors. Some girls turn to commercial sex work to earn money, exposing themselves to further trauma, including sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.

Systematic observations further revealed the emotional distress of street girls. Many were seen expressing anger, stress, sadness, or even crying while discussing their experiences. Additionally, substance abuse, particularly inhaling glue (locally known as *mastish*), and engaging in commercial sex work were common coping mechanisms. The researcher also observed pregnant street girls and those raising babies while living on the streets.

In some instances, the researcher witnessed police and security forces arresting street girls and children, detaining them in concentration camps during official visits or religious ceremonies in Dire Dawa. However, some service provisions were also observed, such as empowerment activities for street girls in the Diss Keema Kebele Woreda 05 area. These included recreational

centers, counseling services provided by local elders and professional experts from the Women's, Children's, and Social Affairs Bureau, in collaboration with partner NGOs.

Additionally, the researcher observed instances of harassment by male street youth, as well as moments of solidarity where street girls and boys shared food and supported one another through collective efforts like begging at hotels.

4.1.4. Coping strategies of girls living on the street

Girls living on the streets of Dire Dawa face numerous psychosocial challenges that significantly impact their mental and emotional well-being. The coping strategies they adopt to navigate these challenges are diverse and deeply influenced by their harsh living conditions. According to interview responses, many girls cope with the realities of street life by accepting their situation, engaging in play with peers, and resorting to substance use—such as sniffing glue—as a temporary escape from emotional distress.

Participants also emphasized that fulfilling basic survival needs—such as obtaining food, water, and shelter—is a critical coping mechanism. In Dire Dawa, some street girls benefit from the support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or religious groups. Finding safer places to sleep, whether in shelters or less-risky outdoor areas, is crucial not only for maintaining physical safety but also for accessing opportunities like vocational training that support long-term self-reliance.

One key informant remarked:

"Connections with family, extended families, and community provide hope to cope with difficult situations. Spiritual practices offer comfort and purpose in times of hardship. Achievable milestones, like finding temporary work or saving money, foster a sense of accomplishment and motivation."

Some key informants from government offices and community members noted that *"engagement in community activities is a helpful strategy for street girls."* They explained that *"participating in such events enables the girls to temporarily shift their focus away from daily struggles, improve*

their mental well-being, and develop skills that may lead to employment opportunities. "Overall, coping with life on the streets involves addressing immediate survival needs, fostering social connections, accessing healthcare services, creating income-generating opportunities, and engaging in spiritual or religious practices as mechanisms of resilience.

"Reintegrating street girls into their families continues to pose a significant challenge. Police officers reported that 'many girls are unwilling to return home due to past experiences of abuse by family members.' Even in cases where reunification is achieved, some girls ultimately return to the streets. This is often driven by unresolved emotional trauma and unmet physical needs, which make it difficult for them to adapt and feel safe at home."

4.1.5. Psychosocial support systems for girls' street life

Psychosocial support is vital for street girls who face trauma, violence, exploitation, and social isolation. Although psychosocial support is a recognized need, only a small percentage of participants (30%) reported receiving any support. This limited support primarily came from the Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment, a local charity organization that provided short-term assistance like school feeding programs, scholastic materials, health facilities, and psycho-social support through a recreation center and counseling. However, the majority of respondents (70%) had not received any form of psychosocial support from either non-governmental or governmental organizations.

Many participants highlighted the critical need for comprehensive support, including life skills training, self-management techniques, and education, as a means to address risky behaviors, such as unsafe sex and pregnancy resulting from rape. Several girls indicated that, without adequate support, they felt compelled to resort to commercial sex work as a means of survival. As one participant noted: 'We (young girls who live on the street) need interventions to address our unique psychosocial needs. This may include access to safe shelter, healthcare support, education, and skills training.' These findings underscore the importance of targeted interventions that can offer practical solutions to the challenges faced by these girls."

Participants also suggested that they wanted to return to school, but feared rejection from their families and felt the need for integrated support, including feeding programs, reintegration with

families, and livelihood activities. They emphasized that the community's support was often lacking, with many street girls experiencing mistrust and isolation when asking for daily work in cafes or other local businesses.

"The participants reported that the responsibility for supporting street children especially girls rests with multiple entities: the government, families, and communities. According to the data, government agencies are seen as essential providers of shelters, food assistance, healthcare services, and job training programs. Families, as the first point of support, are primarily responsible for offering emotional and financial assistance. Community organizations, due to their proximity to the affected individuals, are able to mobilize resources quickly and provide immediate help. These findings indicate a consensus among participants that all three entities play crucial, though distinct, roles in addressing the needs of street children."

Stakeholders reported the existence of some services such as legal aid, counseling, and economic empowerment programs. However, they acknowledged that these services were insufficient and failed to meet the full needs of the street girls. Participants suggested that both government and non-government organizations should focus on creating rehabilitation centers with regular services, including training and life skills development, to empower street girls. Furthermore, sector offices were encouraged to develop guidelines and policies to address such social issues more effectively.

4.2 Discussions

This study identifies various factors contributing to the prevalence of street life among girls in Dire Dawa, aligning with broader literature on the subject. Key influences include familial breakdown, economic hardship, and peer pressure, compounded by the absence of supportive family structures and exposure to abuse and neglect. The findings echo previous studies that have underscored similar drivers of street life, including poverty, violence, and family conflicts.

4.2.1 Familial breakdown and abuse

"The study highlights family breakdown, conflicts, and abuse as significant contributors to street life. Participants reported experiencing neglect, abuse, and violence at home, which led them to

leave. This finding aligns with Ayan (2022), who identified family breakdown as a primary cause of girls leaving home to live on the streets. Similarly, Haliu, Tusingwire, Wakia, and Zacharias (2012) emphasized the role of abuse and violence in pushing children onto the streets.

In the context of Dire Dawa, familial support is often either insufficient or entirely absent. Many street girls described experiences of domestic abuse, which left them with no option but to escape. This aligns with broader findings that suggest abuse and neglect create a hostile home environment, driving children into homelessness (Ayan, 2022; Haliu et al., 2012). The lack of parental guidance and protection further exacerbates the vulnerability of these girls to exploitation and other risks associated with street life."

4.2.2 Economic hardship

"Economic hardship was identified as a central factor driving street life among girls in Dire Dawa. The participants in this study consistently reported that poverty was a major barrier to their families' ability to meet basic needs, which ultimately pushed them to leave their homes in search of survival opportunities. This aligns with findings from Haliu et al. (2012), who noted that economic deprivation plays a critical role in shaping the experiences of street children across various contexts. For the girls in this study, the lack of access to essential resources—such as adequate food, stable shelter, and educational opportunities—was not just a consequence of poverty, but a defining factor in their decision to live on the streets.

In particular, the absence of educational opportunities emerged as a recurring theme, with many participants reporting that their families could not afford to send them to school. This lack of education often leads to limited future prospects, contributing to the cycle of poverty that many girls find themselves trapped in. The decision to leave home, therefore, becomes a response to an environment where survival, rather than development, is the immediate concern.

Furthermore, poverty does not simply force children into street life; it also deepens their marginalization once they are on the streets. As the data shows, girls living on the streets face multiple layers of vulnerability, including exploitation, abuse, and a lack of access to health services. These challenges are compounded by the scarcity of resources available to support them.

For instance, many girls reported that they struggled to find stable work, and those who did find employment often worked in unsafe conditions with little pay.

This situation is consistent with the findings of Ayan (2022), who identified economic hardship as a structural issue that disproportionately affects vulnerable families. Ayan argued that economic deprivation leads not only to homelessness but also to long-term social and economic disadvantages for children. The findings from this study further highlight how poverty serves as both a direct and indirect driver of street life, creating an environment where children, particularly girls, are forced into survival strategies that expose them to further harm.

The findings from this study underscore the urgency of addressing economic hardship as a root cause of street life. Interventions that focus solely on the immediate needs of street children, such as food and shelter, may alleviate some symptoms of the problem but will not address the underlying structural issues. Policymakers and service providers must consider a holistic approach that tackles both the immediate survival needs and the long-term socio-economic disadvantages faced by these children. Programs aimed at providing education, vocational training, and financial support to at-risk families could help break the cycle of poverty and reduce the number of children, particularly girls, living on the streets."

4.2.3. Psychosocial Experiences

The psychosocial challenges faced by street girls in Dire Dawa include anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem, compounded by experiences of abuse, exploitation, and social isolation. These findings align with Berhanu, Dinaol, and Getachew's (2019) study, which reported similar psychosocial challenges among street children in Jimma. Their study revealed that street children frequently experience anxiety and depression, alongside deprivation of basic social services and social support.

The participants in this study shared their struggles with poor mental health due to their living conditions and past experiences. These challenges underscore the need for structured psychosocial support systems to alleviate the mental health burden and improve the well-being of street girls.

4.2.4 Resilience and Coping Mechanisms

Despite their adversities, street girls in Dire Dawa demonstrated remarkable resilience. They adopted coping mechanisms such as forming supportive peer networks and, in some cases, reuniting with family. These strategies provide temporary relief from their challenges but are insufficient without structured interventions. Stakeholder representatives noted the lack of robust psychosocial support systems, which limits the ability of street girls to recover from trauma and reintegrate into society.

The resilience shown by these girls reflects findings by Berhanu et al. (2019), who highlighted the adaptive strategies of street children to survive despite adverse circumstances. However, the absence of long-term solutions—such as structured counseling, skill-building programs, and community support systems—continues to hinder their progress.

4.2.5. Need For Structured Support Systems

The study underscores the importance of structured support systems to address the psychosocial and economic needs of street girls. Participants and stakeholders emphasized the need for government and non-governmental organizations to provide comprehensive services, including safe shelters, education, vocational training, and mental health support.

Existing literature supports this recommendation. Haliu et al. (2012) highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in addressing the root causes of street life. Ayan (2022) similarly called for targeted interventions to prevent street life and support those already affected.

4.2.6. Summery

The study's findings align with the broader literature, demonstrating that street life among girls in Dire Dawa results from interrelated factors, including familial breakdown, economic hardship, and lack of psychosocial support. The psychosocial challenges experienced by these girls further highlight the urgency of developing structured interventions. Efforts must focus on addressing root causes while providing immediate support to alleviate the struggles of those already living on the streets.

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The general objective of this study was to explore the psychosocial experiences of street girls aged 9-18 years in selected kebeles in Dire Dawa City. Specifically, the study aimed to examine the pushing factors that lead girls to street life, investigate the psychosocial challenges they face, identify their coping strategies, and explore the psychosocial support systems available to them.

The study revealed that familial breakdown, including neglect, abuse, and violence, was a major driver of girls' decision to leave home. Many girls reported experiencing violence at home, which led them to escape to the streets in search of safety. The absence of familial support and care left these girls vulnerable to exploitation and further abuse.

Another significant factor was economic hardship. Many families were unable to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and education, which contributed to the girls' decision to seek survival on the streets. The lack of access to education further limited their future opportunities, deepening the cycle of poverty.

The psychosocial challenges faced by street girls were severe. Many girls experienced anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem, compounded by the trauma they experienced both at home and on the streets. These emotional challenges underscore the urgent need for mental health support to help these girls cope with their past experiences.

Despite these adversities, many street girls showed resilience. They formed peer networks and in some cases, reunited with family members for support. However, these coping mechanisms were not enough to address the deeper psychological needs, highlighting the necessity for more structured interventions, such as counseling and skills development programs.

Finally, the study highlighted the lack of structured support systems. The available psychosocial services were limited in scope and often inaccessible to the most vulnerable girls. There is a pressing need for coordinated efforts to provide comprehensive services, including safe shelters, education, vocational training, and mental health support.

5.2 Conclusion

This study revealed that poverty, family breakdown, domestic violence, and neglect are the primary factors that push girls into street life. These pushing factors expose them to harsh living conditions, leaving them without protection and stability. Once on the streets, they face significant psychosocial challenges such as trauma, isolation, exploitation, and fear, which profoundly impact their mental and emotional well-being.

Despite these challenges, many girls demonstrated resilience through informal coping strategies, such as forming peer networks and engaging in petty trading. However, these strategies are insufficient for providing long-term relief. The study also found that existing psychosocial support systems were inadequate, fragmented, and difficult to access, failing to meet the comprehensive needs of the girls, especially in areas like psychological counseling, family reunification, and social reintegration.

Addressing the challenges faced by street girls in Dire Dawa requires a holistic, multidimensional approach that strengthens family systems, expands access to mental health and social services, promotes community-based protective mechanisms, and provides economic opportunities. Without these targeted interventions, the cycle of vulnerability and street life will persist.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are made:

Strengthening Family and Community Support: To address the root causes of street life, family-centered interventions should be implemented to combat domestic violence, substance abuse, and neglect. Collaboration among the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, local community-based organizations (CBOs), and family counseling centers is essential. Family economic strengthening programs led by local agencies and microfinance institutions can help alleviate poverty, reducing the likelihood of girls leaving home. Additionally, promoting kinship care strategies can safeguard children affected by family breakdown or parental death. Community awareness campaigns, led by media and civil society organizations, should raise awareness about the plight of street girls.

Enhancing Psychosocial Support Services: Tailored psychosocial support systems, including mental health counseling, life skills training, and recreational activities, are crucial for addressing the emotional and psychological needs of street girls. These services should be developed by the Bureau of Health, local NGOs, and licensed mental health professionals. Safe spaces and drop-in centers offering immediate shelter and food should be established by the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs and local authorities. Training social workers and psychologists to address the unique needs of street girls is a priority.

Empowering through Education and Livelihood Programs: Access to quality education should be facilitated by removing barriers such as school fees and transportation challenges. Vocational training centers offering market-relevant skills should be established to empower girls toward sustainable livelihoods. This can be coordinated by the Bureau of Job, Skills and Enterprise Development, TVET institutions, and private sector partners. Additionally, integrating life skills and entrepreneurship training into the educational framework will equip street girls with the tools they need for self-reliance.

Strengthening Stakeholder Collaboration: Effective solutions require collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community groups. A comprehensive strategy for prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration must be developed, coordinated by the National Council for Child Protection, Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, and local governments. Clear policies and guidelines should be established to ensure consistency and sustainability in addressing the needs of street girls.

Policy Development and Further Research: In-depth research is necessary to explore the broader implications of family breakdown and its contribution to street life. Universities, research institutions, and international organizations should lead these studies. Furthermore, societal norms and systemic issues, such as peer pressure and institutional shortcomings, must be critically examined to uncover root causes and identify preventive measures. Advocacy is needed to promote policies that prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations, especially street girls, and foster inclusive development.

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APPENDIX-I
HARAMAYA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
MA in Social Psychology
Interview Questions
Interview Protocol Worksheet

This Interview guide is on the subject exploring psychosocial experiences of street girls' life in Dire Dawa city. It has been designed purposefully to source information. The information provided will be treated in utmost confidentiality and the results will only be used for the purpose in which the study is intended (only for academic purpose)

Objective: The interview question is primarily prepared so as to exploring psychosocial experiences of street girls' life in Dire Dawa city.

The result of this study will not have negative outcome on you so, please express what you feel.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Name: _____ Date: _____ Sign.....

Description of Setting: _____

Part 1: Personal information / Background information

1. Age ? _____
A) 7 - 9 B) 10 - 14 C) 15 - 18
2. Your education status? _____
A) No formal education B) Primary school 1st cycle (Grade 1-4)
C) Primary school 2nd cycle (Grade 5- 8) D) Secondary school (Grade 9-12)
3. Number of sibling for street girl ? _____
A) No siblings B) 1-2 siblings C) 3-4 siblings D) 5 and above siblings
4. Living status of your parents ? -----

- A) Both parents are alive B, only father died
 B) C, only mother died D, both parents died

5. Whom are you living with _____
6. Current residence of the child's parents _____
7. Year of your street life _____
8. Birth place _____

Part 2: Psychosocial experiences of girls street life ?

1. What do you feel about your current living situation as a street girl?
2. Have you experienced any traumatic, depression events, or forms of exploitation while living on the streets?
3. Can you share any positive experiences or moments of joy you have had while living on the streets in Dire Dawa?
4. can you mention the challenges you face as a street girl in Dire Dawa?
5. How can the community perceive about girls' street life ?

Part 3: The pushing factors to girls' street life ?

1. What are the main reasons or factors that led you to live on the streets in Dire Dawa?

Part 4: Street girls' coping mechanisms ?

1. How do you cope with difficult situations or psychosocial challenges while living on the streets in Dire Dawa?
2. How do you cope with economic challenges you faced in the street life ?

Part 5: Psycho-social Support systems for girls' street life

1. Have you received any form of psychosocial support while living on the streets in Dire Dawa?
2. What kind of psychosocial, economic support or assistance do you think would be most helpful for street girls to cope with this life?
3. What do you suggest to the government and stakeholders to make street children (girls) reunited with their families or cope with street life?
4. Do you want back to your family?

5. what support you expect from community and government, and other services providers ?
6. Who do you think that effective support providers for your street life ?
 - A. Family or relatives
 - B. Government
 - C. community

For Official or stakeholders

Dear Respect participant,

1. How do you evaluate the current status of street children (girls) and its impact on society in Dire-Dawa?
2. What are the common factors you think for street life in Dire-Dawa?
3. What is your experience working with street children in particular on girls reuniting with their families, and other support to rehabilitate and cope with street life?
4. What kind of psychosocial experience do street girls possibly face when they live in the street?
5. What kind of support or assistance your organization currently providing for girls' living on street ?
6. What types of support services or programs do you think would be most helpful to them and most effective in helping street girls transition off the streets in Dire Dawa?
7. What policy your organization have to support girls' street life ?
8. What do you think about the prevalence and incidence of girls living on street ?

ሀራማያ ዩኒቨርሲቲ

የትምህርት እና የባህሪ ጥናት ሳይንስ ኮሌጅ

የሳይኮሎጂ ትምህርት ክፍል

ሁለተኛ ዲግሪ በማህበራዊ ሳይኮሎጂ

የቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄዎች

የቃለ መጠይቅ ፕሮቶኮል ዝርዝር መግለጫ

ይህ የቃለ መጠይቅ መመሪያ የሚያተኩረው በድሬዳዎ ከተማ የሚኖሩ የጎዳና ተዳዳሪ ልጃገረዶችን ስነ-ልቦናዊ ገጠመኝ በመቃኘት ላይ ነው። የቀረበው መረጃ በከፍተኛ ሚስጥራዊነት ይጠበቃል እናም የመረጃው ውጤቶች ጥናቱ ለታሰበበት ዓላማ ብቻ ጥቅም ላይ ይውላሉ (ለአካዳሚክ ዓላማ ብቻ)።

ዓላማ: የቃለ መጠይቁ ጥያቄዎች በዋናነት የተዘጋጁት በድሬዳዎ ከተማ ውስጥ ያሉ የጎዳና ተዳዳሪ ልጃገረዶችን ሕይወት ሥነ ልቦናዊ ገጠመኝ ለመቃኘት ነው።

የዚህ ጥናት ውጤት በእርሶ ላይ አሉታዊ ተጽእኖ አይኖረውም። ስለዚህ እባክዎን የሚሰማዎትን ይግለጹ።

ስለ ትብብርዎ እናመሰግናለን!

ስም: _____ ቀን: _____ ፊርማ.....

የቦታው: የአካባቢው አካላዊ ሁኔታ እና ጊዜ መግለጫ (የት እና መቼ) _____

ክፍል 1: የግል መረጃ/መሰረታዊ መረጃ

1. ዕድሜ? _____

ሀ) 7 - 9 ለ) 10 - 14 ሐ) 15 - 18

2. የትምህርት ደረጃዎ? _____

ሀ) መደበኛ ትምህርት የለም ለ) 1ኛ ዙር አንደኛ ደረጃ ትምህርት ቤት (1-4ኛ ክፍል)

ሐ) 2ኛ ዙር አንደኛ ደረጃ ትምህርት ቤት (5-8ኛ ክፍል) መ) ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ትምህርት ቤት (ከ9-12ኛ ክፍል)

3. የጎዳና ተዳዳሪው ወንድሞችና እህቶች ቁጥር?

ሀ) ወንድም እህት የለም ለ) 1-2 ወንድሞችና እህቶች ሐ) 3-4 ወንድሞችና እህቶች መ) 5 እና ከዚያ በላይ ወንድሞች እህቶች

4. የወላጆችዎ የኑሮ ሁኔታ? -----

ሀ) ሁለቱም ወላጆች በህይወት አሉ ለ) አባት ብቻ ነው የሞተው።

ሐ) እናት ብቻ ናት የሞተችው መ) ሁለቱም ወላጆች ሞተዋል።

5. ከማን ጋር ነው የምትኖረው? _____ "

6. የልጁ ወላጆች አሁን ላይ ያሉበት (የሚኖሩበት) መኖሪያ _____

7. በጎዳና ላይ ስንት አመታት ኖረዋል? ወይም የጎዳና ህይወት ቆይታዎ (በአመታት): _____

8. የትውልድ ቦታ _____

ክፍል 2: የልጃገረዶች የጎዳና ህይወት ስነ ልቦናዊ ገጠመኞች?

1. እንደ የጎዳና ተዳዳሪ ሴት ልጅ አሁን ላይ ስላለሽበት የኑሮ ሁኔታ ምን ይሰማሻል?

2. በጎዳና ላይ ስትኖሪ ምንም አይነት አሰቃቂ ሁኔታ፣ የመንፈስ ጭንቀት ወይም የተለያዩ አይነት ብዝበዛዎች አጋጥሞሽ ያውቃል?

3. በድሬዳዋ ከተማ ጎዳና ላይ ስትኖሪ ያጋጠመሽ አዎንታዊ ተሞክሮ ወይም ደስ የሚል ጊዜ ካለ ማካፈል ትችላለሽ?

4. በድሬዳዋ ከተማ እንደሚኖር የጎዳና ተዳዳሪ የሚያጋጥሙሽን ፈተናዎች ልትጠቅሻቸው ትችላለሽ?

5. ማህበረሰቡ ስለልጃገረዶች የጎዳና ላይ ህይወት እንዴት ነው የሚረዳው?

ክፍል 3: ልጃገረዶች ወደ ጎዳና ህይወት እንዲገቡ የሚገፋፉ ምክንያቶች?

1. በድሬዳዋ ከተማ ላይ የጎዳና ሕይወት እንድትኖረ ያደረጉሽ ዋና ዋና ምክንያቶች ወይም መንስኤዎች ምን ምን ናቸው?

ክፍል 4: የጎዳና ተዳዳሪ ልጃገረዶች የጎዳና ላይ ህይወትን የመቋቋሚያ ዘዴዎች?

1. በድሬዳዋ ከተማ ውስጥ በጎዳና ተዳዳሪነት ስትኖረ አስቸጋሪ ሁኔታዎችን ወይም የስነ ልቦና ችግሮችን ወይም ተግዳሮቶችን እንዴት ነው የምትቋቋሚያቸው?
2. በጎዳና ላይ ህይወት ውስጥ የሚያጋጥሙትን ኢኮኖሚያዊ ፈተናዎች እንዴት ነው የምትቋቋሚያቸው?

ክፍል 5: በጎዳና ላይ ለሚኖሩ ልጃገረዶች የስነ-ልቦና-ማህበራዊ ድጋፍ ስርዓቶች ወይም አገልግሎቶች

1. በድሬዳዋ ከተማ ውስጥ በጎዳና ላይ በምትኖረበት ጊዜ ያገኘሽው ማንኛውም አይነት የስነ ልቦና ድጋፍ አለ?
2. የጎዳና ተዳዳሪዎች ይህን ህይወት እንዲቋቋሙ ምን አይነት ስነ-ልቦናዊ፣ ኢኮኖሚያዊ ድጋፍ ወይም እርዳታ ቢደረግላቸው ጠቃሚ ነው ብለው ያስባሉ?
3. የጎዳና ተዳዳሪዎችን (ሴት ልጆችን) ከቤተሰቦቻቸው ጋር እንዲቀላቀሉ ለማድረግ ወይም የጎዳና ተዳዳሪነት ህይወትን እንዲቋቋሙ ለማድረግ ለመንግስት እና ለባለድርሻ አካላት ምን ትጠቁማላችሁ?
4. ወደ ቤተሰብዎ መመለስ ይፈልጋሉ?
5. ከማህበረሰቡ እና ከመንግስት እንዲሁም ከሌሎች አገልግሎት ሰጪዎች ምን ድጋፍ ይጠብቃሉ?
6. ለሚኖሩት ጎዳና ሕይወት ውጤታማ ድጋፍ የሚያቀርበው ማን ይመስልዎታል?

ሀ. ቤተሰብ ወይም ዘመዶች ለ. Government ሐ. ማህበረሰብ

ለሚመለከታቸው ባለስልጣናት እና ባለድርሻ አካላት

ውድ የተከበሩ ተሳታፊ፣

1. የጎዳና ተዳዳሪ ሴት ልጆች አሁን ያሉበትን ሁኔታ እና በድሬዳዋ ከተማ ማህበረሰብ ላይ የሚኖረውን ተፅዕኖ እንዴት ይገመግማሉ?

2. በድሬዳዋ ከተማ ልጆች የጎዳና ህይወት ውስጥ እንዲገቡ የሚያረጉ የተለመዱ ምክንያቶች ምንድን ናቸው?

3. የጎዳና ተዳዳሪዎችን በተለይ ሴት ልጆችን ከቤተሰቦቻቸው ጋር እንዲገናኙ የማድረግ ስራ ላይ እና አገግመው በተሻለ ሁኔታ እንዲኖሩ ለማስቻል እንዲሁም በጎዳና ላይ የመኖር ፈተናዎችን እንዲቋቋም ለመርዳት የሚያስችሉ ሌሎች ድጋፎች መስጠትን በተመለከተ ከጎዳና ተዳዳሪዎች ጋር የመስራት ልምድ ምን ይመስላል?

4. የጎዳና ተዳዳሪ ሴት ልጆች በጎዳና ላይ ሲኖሩ ምን አይነት ስነ ልቦናዊና ማህበራዊ ችግሮች ሊያጋጥሟቸው ይችላሉ?

5. ድርጅትዎ በአሁኑ ጊዜ በጎዳና ላይ ለሚኖሩ ሴት ልጆች ምን አይነት ድጋፍ ወይም እርዳታ ይሰጣል?

6. በድሬዳዋ ከተማ የጎዳና ተዳዳሪዎች ከጎዳና ተዳዳሪነት እንዲወጡ ለመርዳት ምን አይነት የድጋፍ አገልግሎቶች ወይም ፕሮግራሞች ለእነሱ በጣም ጠቃሚና ውጤታማ ናቸው ብለው ያስባሉ?

7. ድርጅትዎ ጎዳና ላይ የሚኖሩ ሴት ልጆችን ለመደገፍ የሚያስችል ምን ፖሊሲ አለው?

8. በጎዳና ላይ ስለሚኖሩ ሴት ልጆች መስፋፋት እና ክስተት ምን ያስባሉ?

7.DABALATAA
YUNIVARSIIITII HARAMAYAA
KOLEEJII BARNOOTAA FI SAAYINSII AMALA
DIPAARTIMANTII SAAYIKOLOOJII
MA Xiin-Sammuu Hawaasummaatiin

Gaaffii Af-gaaffii

Waraqaa Hojii Pirootokoolii Af-gaaffii

Qajeelfamni Af-gaaffii kun dhimma muuxannoowwan xiinsammuu hawasuumaa jireenya shamarran daandii irratti magaalaa Dire Dawaa keessa jirataan qoratu irratti kan xiyyeeffatedha. Odeeffannoo madda isa irraa argachuuf kaayyoodhaan kan qophaa'edha. Odeeffannoon kenname iccitii guddaa ta'een kan ilaalamu yoo ta'u, bu'aan isaas kaayyoo qorannichi itti yaadame qofaaf (kaayyoo barnootaa qofaaf) kan oolu ta'a.

Kaayyoo: Gaaffiin af-gaaffii adda durummaan muuxannoowwan gama xiin-sammuu hawaasummatiin jireenya shamarran daandii irratti magaalaa Dire Dawaa keessatti mul'atan qorachuuf kan qophaa'edha.

Bu'aan qorannoo kanaa miidha tokkoolee sirraan kan gessiisu hin qabaatu kanaaf, mee waan sitti dhaga'amu ibsaa.

Tumsa keessaniif galatoomaa!

Maqaa: _____ Guyyaa: _____ Mallattoo.....

Ibsa Haala: _____.

Kutaa 1 ffaa: Odeeffannoo wa'ee nama dhunfa

1. Umurii? _____ .

A) 7 - 9 B) 10 – 14 C) 15 - 18

2. Haala barnootaa keessanii? _____ .

A) Barnoota idilee hin qabu

B) Mana barumsaa sadarkaa tokkoffaa marsaa 1ffaa (Kutaa 1-4).

C) Mana barumsaa sadarkaa tokkoffaa marsaa 2ffaa (Kutaa 5- 8)

D) Mana barumsaa sadarkaa lammaffaa (Kutaa 9-12).

3. Baay'ina obbola isa/ishee? _____ .

A) Obbola hin qabu B) Obbola 1-2 C) Obbola 3-4 D) Obbola 5 fi isaa ol

4. Haala jireenyaa warra keetii? -----

- A) Warri lamaanu lubbuun jiru B. abbaa qofatu du'e
C. haadha qofatu du'e D. warri lamaan du'an

5. Eenyu waliin jiraachaa jirta _____.

6. Jireenya yeroo ammaa warra daa'imaa _____.

7. Bara jireenya daandii kee _____.

8. Bakka dhalootaa _____.

Kutaa 2: Muuxannoo xiin-sammuu hawaasummaa jireenya daandii shamarrani?

1. Haala jireenya amma keessa jirtu akka shamarree daandii irra jirtutti maaltu sitti dhagahama?
2. Yeroo daandii irra jiraattu taateewwan nama gaddisiisan, dhiphina sammuu ykn bifa faayidaarra oolmaa si mudatteettaa?
3. Dire Dawaa daandiirra jiraachaa mudannoo gaarii ykn yeroo gammachuu isin mudate isiniif qooduu ni dandeessu?
4. qormaata akka shamarree daandii Dire Dawaaatti si mudatu menssions gochuu dandeessaa?
5. Akkamitti comminty waa'ee jireenya daandii shamarran hubachuu danda'a?

Kutaa 3ffaa: Wantoota jireenya daandii irratti shamarran dhiiban?

1. Sababoonni ykn wantootni gurguddoon Dire Dawaaatti daandii irra akka jiraattu si taasisan maali?

Kutaa 4ffaa: Akkaataa itti dandamatan shamarran daandii irratti argaman?

1. Dire Dawaa keessa daandii irra osoo jiraattanii haala rakkisaa ykn qormaata saayikooshawaasummaa akkamitti dandamta?
2. Akkamitti qormaata dinagdee jireenya sreet keessatti si mudate cop-up?

Kutaa 5: Sirna Deeggarsa saayikoo-hawaasummaa jireenya daandii shamarran

1. Dire Dawaa daandii irra osoo jiraattan deeggarsa saayikooshawaasummaa bifa kamiinuu argattaniittuu?

2. Shamarran daandiirra jiraniif jireenya kana dandamachuuf deeggarsa saayikooshawaasummaa, dinagdee ykn gargaarsi akkamii baay'ee gargaara jettanii yaaddu?
3. Mootummaa fi qooda fudhattoonni daa'imman daandii irratti argaman (shamarran) maatii isaanii waliin akka walitti makaman ykn jireenya daandii irratti akka dandamatan maal yaada kennitu?
4. Maatii keessanitti deebi'uu barbaadduu?
5. hawaasaa fi mootummaa, fi tajaajila kennitoota biroo irraa deeggarsa akkamii eegdu?
6. Jireenya daandii keessaniif deeggarsa bu'a qabeessa ta'e kan kennu eenyu jettanii yaaddu?

A. Maatii ykn fira B. Mootummaa C. hawaasa

Qooda fudhattootaaf

Kabajamaa Hirmaataa Kabajaa,

1. Haala yeroo ammaa daa'imman daandii irratti (shamarran) fi dhiibbaa inni hawaasa Dire-Dawa irratti qabu akkamitti madaaltu?
2. Jireenya daandii Dire-Dawaatti wantootni waliigalaa isin yaaddan maali?
3. Keessattuu shamarran maatii isaanii waliin deebi'anii walitti dhufuu, fi deeggarsa biroo jireenya daandii irratti deebisanii dhaabuu fi dandamachuuf daa'imman daandii irratti hojjetan irratti muuxannoon keessan maali?
4. Shamarran daandiirra jiraatan yeroo daandii irra jiraatan muuxannoo saayikooshawaasummaa akkamii isaan mudachuu danda'a?
5. Dhaabbanni keessan yeroo ammaa shamarran daandiirra jiraataniif deeggarsa ykn gargaarsa akkamii kenna jira?
6. Dire Dawa keessatti shamarran daandii irraa daandii irraa akka ce'an gargaaruu keessatti tajaajila deeggarsa ykn sagantaa gosa akkamii isaan gargaaraa fi bu'a qabeessa ta'a jettanii yaaddu?
7. Dhaabbanni keessan jireenya daandii irratti shamarran deeggaruuf imaammata akkamii qaba ?

Waa'ee dabalii lakkoofsa fi tateewwan dubartota daandii irra jiraatani maal jettu ?

APPENDIX-I-II

OBSERVATION CHECK LIST

1. Area description
2. Who are found there?
3. Approximate Age
4. Occupation/ what they do for a living
4. Physical Appearance and Clothing
5. Where they spend the night
6. Verbal Behavior and interaction with other people
7. Who speaks to whom and how long?
8. How is the interaction among/between different groups?
9. Any abuse observed

የምልክታ ክትትል ማረጋገጫ ዝርዝር

1. የአካባቢ ሁኔታ መግለጫ
2. እዚያ የሚገኙት እነማን ናቸው?
3. ግምታዊ ተቀራራቢ ዕድሜ
4. ሥራ/ ለመኖር የሚያደርጉት
4. አካላዊ መልክ እና የአለባበስ ሁኔታ
5. የሚያድሩበት ቦታ
6. የቃል ባህሪዎች እና ከሌሎች ሰዎች ጋር ያላቸው መስተጋብር
7. ማን ለማን ይናገራል እና ለምን ያህል ጊዜ ይናገራል?
8. በተለያዩ ቡድኖች መካከል ያለው ግንኙነት እንዴት ነው?
9. ማንኛውም የታየ በደል (ጥቃት)

TARREE ILAALCHA ILAALCHA

1. Ibsa naannoo
2. Eenyuutu achitti argamu?
3. Tilmaama Umurii
4. Hojii/ waan jireenya isaaniif hojjetan
4. Bifa Qaamaa fi Uffata
5. Bakka halkan itti bulaan
6. Amala dubbii fi namoota biroo wajjin walitti dhufeenya qabaachuu
7. Eenyuutu eenyuuti fi hanga yoomitti dubbata?
8. Walqunnamtiin garee adda addaa gidduu/jidduu jiru akkam?
9. Miidhaa mul'ate kamiyyuu

APPENDIX-III

INFORMATION SHEET INFORMED VOLUNTARY CONSENT

My name is Hailu Sisay Tekalign. I am a Master's student at Haramaya University, and I am currently conducting research for my thesis entitled:

“Exploring Psychosocial Experiences of Street Girls’ Life in Dire Dawa City, Ethiopia.”

I kindly ask for your time and attention as I explain the purpose of this study.

Title of the Study:

Exploring Psychosocial Experiences of Street Girls’ Life in Dire Dawa City, Ethiopia

Purpose of the Study:

The main objective of this study is to examine the factors that contribute to street life and to explore the psychosocial experiences of girls living on the streets of Dire Dawa City.

Confidentiality:

All the information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and securely stored. Your identity will not be disclosed at any stage of the study. Data will be coded, and no names or personally identifiable information will be recorded. The findings will be presented in a generalized form, without linking any responses to specific individuals.

Voluntary Participation:

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You have the right to choose whether or not to take part in the study, and you may withdraw at any time without facing any negative consequences.

Declaration of Informed Voluntary Consent:

I have read and understood the information provided above. I voluntarily agree to participate in this interview.

Participant’s Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIXI-IV

የድሬዳዋ አስተዳደር
የሴቶች ህፃናትና ማህበራዊ
ጉዳይ ቢሮ



Dire Dawa Administration
Women's Children's &
Social Affairs Bureau

☎ 0251 113634 📠 0251 124562 📧 361 ድሬዳዋ - Dire Dawa ኢትዮጵያ - Ethiopia

ቁጥር 6/1/2016/20492
Ref. No
ቀን 7/11/2016
Date

→ ለ ባይ መረጃ ስራ አስኪያጅ
ለ ባይ መረጃ ሊቀጥጥ ህፃናትና ማህበራዊ ጉዳይ ማስተሳሰቢያ
ፊርማ

ጉዳይ፡ በጎዳና ላይ የሚኖሩ ለት ህፃናቶች ላይ የሚደረግ ጥናት ላይ ትብብር
በለግደረግ ይመሰክታል።

በመረጃቸው በተለየ ማህበራዊ ወይንም የሌላው አድጋሚነት ከፍተኛ ለውጥ ለውጥ ሆኖ ህፃናት ለማድረግ እና ሆሌል ላይ እንደሚኖሩ አስረዳውን ትብብር እንዲደረግላቸው የሆርሞን ዲቪዥን በተገኘበት ቀን 11/7/2024 በተገኘ ደብዳቤ ጥናት ማድረግ እንዲችሉ ይከበራቸው ትብብር እንዲደረግላቸው ተጠይቋል።
በዚህ በመረጃቸው ይህን ጥናት ለማድረግ በሚመዘገቡ ወቅት አስረዳውን ትብብር ተደርጎላቸው ይከበራቸዋል።



ህፃናት ላይ ለማድረግ ለማስቀመጥ

የግንባርና የግብርና ጉዳይ ቢሮ

ጉዳይ ቢሮ



Social Affairs Bureau

0251 113634 0251 124562 361 ድራዳዎ - Dire Dawa ኢትዮጵያ - Ethiopia

ቁጥር 8/1/2016/1
Ref. No
ቀን 9/11/2016
Date

ለ 3 ወረዳ ስራ አስኪያጅ
ለ 3 ወረዳ ሴቶች ህፃናትና ማህበራዊ ጉዳይ ማስተባበሪያ
ድራዳዎ

ጉዳይ፡ በጎዳና ላይ የሚኖሩ ሴት ህፃናቶች ላይ የሚደረግ ጥናት ላይ ትብብር
ሰላማዊ ለማድረግ ይመሰክታል፤

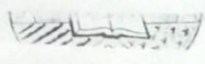
በወረዳችሁ በተለያዩ ምክንያቶች ወይ ጎዳና የወጡ እድሜያቸው ከ9 እስከ 18 አመት የሚሆናቸው ህፃናት ላይ ጥናት ለማድረግ አቶ ሀይሉ ሲሳይ እንደመጡና አስረገጠውን ትብብር እንዲደረግላቸው የዐርማያ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በቀን 1/7/2024 በተገራ ጸደቀው ጥናት ማድረግ እንዲችሉ ዩኒቨርሲቲው ትብብር እንዲደረግላቸው ተወይቷል።

ስለዚህ በወረዳችሁ ይህንን ጥናት ለማድረግ በሚመጡበት ወቅት አስረገጠውን ትብብር ታደርጉላቸው ዘንድ እንከፈታለን።



ህፃናትን እኛው እራሳችን እንከብራለን

ቅጽ 1000 ሲጽፉ ስንደገፍ ይጠቀሙ Please Quote Number When You Reply



Social Affairs Bureau

የድራዳዋ አስተዳደር
የሴቶች ህፃናትና ማህበራዊ
ጉዳይ ቢሮ



Dire Dawa Administration
Women's Children's &
Social Affairs Bureau

☎ 0251 113634 📠 0251 124562 ✉ 361 ድራዳዋ - Dire Dawa ኢትዮጵያ - Ethiopia

ቁጥር 9/11/2016
Ref. No
ቀን 9/11/2016
Date

→ ለ ዐፄ ወረዳ ሰራ አስኪያጅ
ለ ዐፄ ወረዳ ሴቶች፣ ህፃናትና ማህበራዊ ጉዳይ ማስተባበሪያ
ድራዳዋ

ጉዳይ: በጎዳና ላይ የሚኖሩ ሴት ህፃናቶች ላይ የሚደረግ ጥናት ላይ ትብብር
ስለማድረግ ይመለከታል፤

በወረዳችሁ በተለያዩ ምክንያቶች ወደ ጎዳና የወጡ እርሜያቸው ከ9 እስከ 18 ዓመት የሚሆናቸው ህፃናት ላይ ጥናት ለማድረግ አቶ ሀይሉ ሲሳይ እንደመጡና አስፈላጊውን ትብብር እንዲደረግላቸው የሀሮማያ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በቀን 1/7/2024 በተፃፈ ደብዳቤ ጥናት ማድረግ እንዲችሉ ዩኒቨርሲቲው ትብብር እንዲደረግላቸው ተጠይቋል።

ስለዚህ በወረዳችሁ ይህንን ጥናት ለማድረግ በሚመጡበት ወቅት አስፈላጊውን ትብብር ታደርጉላቸው ዘንድ እንጠይቃለን።



ህፃናትን እኛው እራሳችን እንከባከባቸው!

[Handwritten signature]
Director

የሕዝብ አገልግሎት ቢሮ

ጉዳይ ቢሮ



Social Affairs Bureau

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ቁጥር 91/1/20492
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ቀን 9/11/2016
Date

→ ለ 5 ወረዳ ስራ አስኪያጅ
ለ 5 ወረዳ ሴቶች፣ ህፃናትና ማህበራዊ ጉዳይ ማስተባበሪያ
ድሬዳዋ

ጉዳይ: በጎዳና ላይ የሚኖሩ ሴት ህፃናቶች ላይ የሚደረግ ጥናት ላይ ትብብር
ስለማድረግ ይመለከታል!

በወረዳችሁ በተለያዩ ምክንያቶች ወደ ጎዳና የወጡ እድሜያቸው ከ9 እስከ 18 አመት የሚሆናቸው ህፃናት ላይ ጥናት ለማድረግ አቶ ሀይሉ ሴሳይ እንደመጡና አስራላጊውን ትብብር እንዲደረግላቸው የሀሮማያ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በቀን1/7/2024 በተገፈ ደብዳቤ ጥናት ማድረግ እንዲችሉ ዩኒቨርሲቲው ትብብር እንዲደረግላቸው ተጠይቋል።

ስለዚህ በወረዳችሁ ይህንን ጥናት ለማድረግ በሚመጡበት ወቅት አስራላጊውን ትብብር ታደርጉላቸው ዘንድ እንጠይቃለን።



ህፃናትን እኛው እራሳችን እንከባከባቸው!

Handwritten signature and stamp

የሕዝብ አገልግሎት ቢሮ ድሬዳዋ

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Haramaya University
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Psychology, Postgraduate Program

Date: 01 / 07/ 2024

To whom it may concern

Subject: In need of Cooperation

From: Haramaya University, Department of Psychology

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hailu Sisay is a student of MA in social psychology at CEP postgraduate program of psychology in Haramaya University. He/she is currently registered to conduct thesis that need to be applied on the field/real environment. This is the intention that enabling student/s to exercise the application of what he has been learned theoretically at the world of work environment in the field. With this basic conviction of attaching theoretical concepts to practical exercises, your organization is kindly selected to our student's data collection site activity.

This is therefore, our institution kindly requests your esteem organization to cooperate with us in allowing our student's to do his/her activities under your organization close supervision/collaboration with the common mission of contributing our effort to have fruitful professional citizen for inclusive social change.

Thank you for your kind cooperation in advance.

With regards,

Sign _____

Department of Psychology

